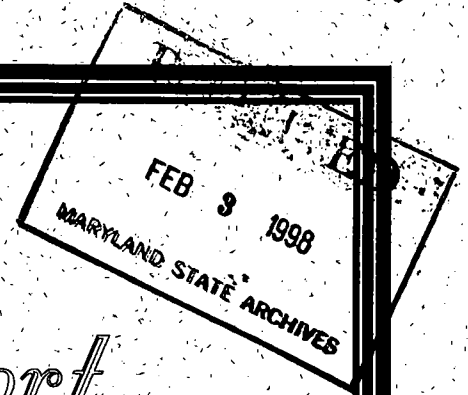
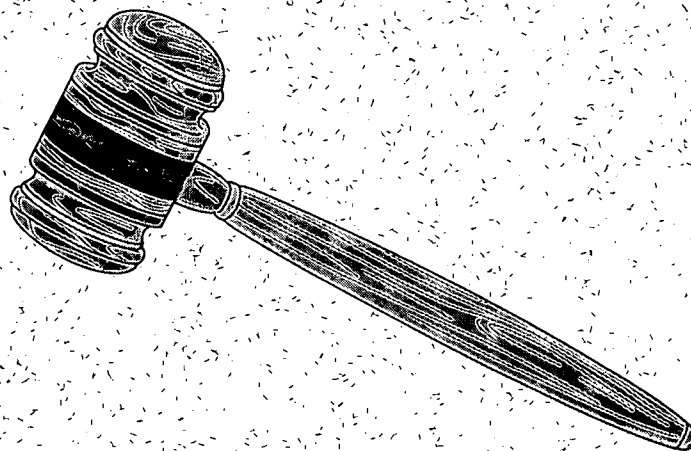


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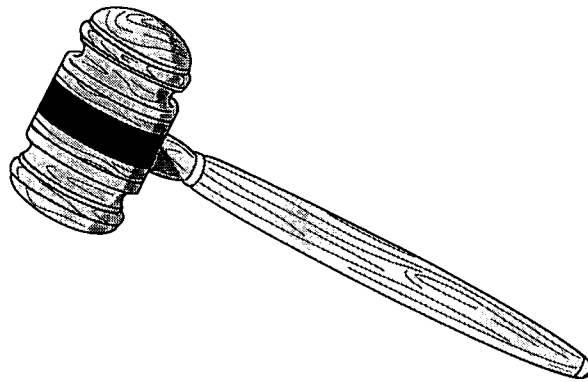


*Annual Report  
Of The  
Maryland Judiciary  
1996 - 1997*





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Of The  
Maryland Judiciary  
1996 - 1997*



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# Letter of Transmittal

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

ROBERT C. MURPHY COURTS OF APPEAL BUILDING  
361 ROWE BOULEVARD  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
GEORGE B. RIGGIN, JR.



DEPUTY STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
FRANK BROCCOLINA

December 1, 1997

This is the twenty-first Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary which includes the forty-second Annual Report of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The report covers Fiscal Year 1997, beginning July 1, 1996 and ending June 30, 1997.

This report provides data on the operation and functions of the Maryland courts. It presents statistical information on both individual courts and an overview of the Maryland judicial system as a whole. It is hoped that this report will provide a ready source of information to better understand Maryland's court structure and operations.

The past year has been notable in that it marked a change in judicial leadership with the appointment of the Honorable Robert M. Bell, the first new Chief Judge in more than twenty years. Chief Judge Bell places great emphasis on public outreach by the Judiciary in order to better serve Maryland citizens. In that regard, numerous projects have commenced to better inform and educate the public about judicial processes with a goal to "demystify" court procedures. Efforts also are underway to ensure that the Judiciary "listens" to the needs of its users, thus providing an opportunity for a full dialogue. Through this dialogue, Maryland courts can continue to provide just and timely resolution to disputes arising within our communities.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is indebted to the clerks of the appellate courts, the circuit courts of the counties and Baltimore City, and to clerks of the District Court of Maryland for their invaluable assistance in providing the statistics on which most of this report is based. My thanks to them and to all those whose talents contributed to the preparation of this publication. I commend it to your reading.



A handwritten signature of George B. Riffin, Jr. in dark ink.

George B. Riffin, Jr.  
State Court Administrator

(410) 280-1400  
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# Introduction

ROBERT M. BELL  
CHIEF JUDGE  
COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND  
634 COURTHOUSE EAST  
111 N. CALVERT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202  
(410) 333-6396



December 1, 1997

The purpose of the Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary is to outline the work, duties, responsibilities, and accomplishments of the judicial branch of our state government. An accounting of the Judiciary's operations and of the caseload so ably handled by the courts demonstrate how well, efficiently and effectively, the system, personified by the judges and the other necessary components, actually performs and may provide a better understanding of the problems and issues it encounters when delivering judicial services to the citizens of Maryland.

Maryland has an excellent judiciary, of which I am extremely proud. That this is so is confirmed by the charts and narratives contained in this Report. It is also important that its quality be maintained, for the effective delivery of judicial services inspires the public confidence in the courts so vital to the success of the judicial system. In other words, as the institution responsible for the administration of justice, the Judiciary's success in fulfilling that mission is directly related to how well it is able to acquire the public's trust.

The Judiciary is a complex system, comprised of a four-tiered court organization and related agencies. The interrelationship between the courts and those agencies is such that each component is dependent on the others requiring, no, demanding, coordination of efforts and that they cooperate among themselves. Thus, the excellence of the Judiciary is, in truth, a tribute not simply to the highly competent and hard-working judges, but also to the many men and women who perform the support functions so necessary to the system's proper functioning. Whether their contributions are made in the Administrative Office of the Courts, in one of the county court administrative offices, in the District Court, in one of the Clerk of Court Offices, at Judicial Information Systems, or in some other venue, these men and women and their contributions are indispensable.

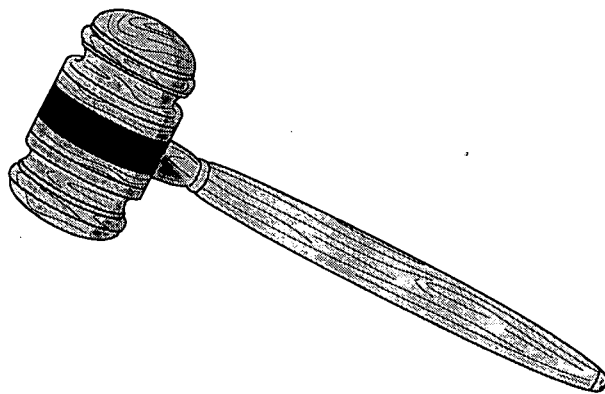
Just as the success the Judiciary has achieved has been a team effort, so too has been the effort which resulted in the publication of this Report. I, and indeed the entire Judiciary, am indebted to all who made it possible, especially those who developed, collected and collated the statistical data on which this Report is based.

This Report is intended to be a resource for the edification of the other two coordinate branches of State government and, most important, for the citizens of Maryland, whom we are privileged to serve. I am confident that it will be viewed as such and hopeful that it will be used to gain insight into the judicial system, its workings, its needs and, perhaps, its goals. Therefore, I am pleased to present it on behalf of the entire Maryland Judicial System. Enjoy!

Robert M. Bell  
Chief Judge



*The State  
Of The  
Judiciary Address*





# *The State of the Judiciary Address*

## STATE OF THE JUDICIARY ADDRESS BY CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT M. BELL BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND JANUARY 29, 1997

Governor Glendening; President Miller; Speaker Taylor; Ladies and Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

This is my first appearance before this distinguished body as Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, having been so designated by Governor Glendening just more than three (3) months ago. Thus, it is my first opportunity to address you concerning my assessment of the State of the Judiciary. I am honored by your invitation to appear and for the opportunity to share some thoughts with you.

My esteemed predecessors have addressed this body on thirteen (13) occasions - my immediate predecessor, Robert Charles Murphy, gave twelve (12) State of the Judiciary addresses, while his predecessor, the illustrious Hall Hammond gave one, the first. While this address, in this sense, therefore, is not historic, there is another sense in which it is. This is the first time in almost a quarter of a century that the leadership of the Judiciary has been in new and different hands, although the tradition begun in 1972, having a Chief Judge Murphy, has continued. In addition to myself at the Court of Appeals, there are new chief judges of the Court of Special Appeals and of the District Court of Maryland. Replacing an extraordinary chief judge and indefatigable worker (whom you will meet shortly), and at the same time upholding the Murphy tradition is another tireless worker, soon to be

dubbed the latest phenom, Chief Judge Joseph F. Murphy. Like his predecessor, he also does double duty, chairing the Court of Appeals' Rules Committee. For the entirety of its existence until September 16, 1996, the leadership of the District Court was entrusted to a "very special person," who has been described accurately as "an enlightened, forceful, ever-present, no-nonsense leader - an inspiration to us all,"

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***"The next few years and on into the next century and millennium present a challenge. Cognizant of that fact, Governor Glendening has appointed outstanding men and women at each level of court, thus buttressing my ability to guarantee that the Judiciary is in good and competent hands".***

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Chief Judge Robert F. Sweeney. Fully capable of filling Judge Sweeney's shoes and, indeed, ably doing so, is an extraordinarily gifted judge, Martha Rasin. You can also see that this is the most diverse leadership that the Maryland Judiciary has had in the history of this State.

The Constitution of Maryland places the ultimate authority and responsibility for the direction and management of the Maryland State courts in the hands of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. This

responsibility is awesome, but not unsettling. This is particularly true when the Chief Judge enjoys the good fortune to have excellent lieutenants with whom to share the responsibility. The team of Bell, Murphy, and Rasin will lead the Maryland Judiciary into the twenty-first century, facing anticipated, but unprecedented challenges. I am pleased, and Maryland is blessed, to have this team in place. I look forward to working with them, Governor Glendening, and you, to meet the challenges to the Maryland Judiciary.

Before proceeding further, let me introduce my esteemed colleagues, the Judges of the Court of Appeals. In transcending order of seniority, they are: the Honorable John C. Eldridge of Anne Arundel County; the Honorable Lawrence F. Rodowsky of Baltimore City; the Honorable Howard S. Chasanow of Prince George's County; the Honorable Irma S. Raker of Montgomery County; and the Honorable Alan M. Wilner of Baltimore County, both a Murphy replacement and a Murphy predecessor. The Honorable Robert L. Karwacki of Queen Anne's County is not with us because of a longstanding commitment. These judges are, and will continue to be, real assets to me; their support, advice, and, frankly, their help, have been, and I believe will continue to be, invaluable.

My message on the State of the Maryland Judiciary is a mixed one. I

prefer to start with the plus side of the ledger.

The next few years and on into the next century and millennium present a challenge. Cognizant of that fact, Governor Glendening has appointed outstanding men and women at each level of court, thus buttressing my ability to guarantee that the Judiciary is in good and competent hands. I have used the first three months of my tenure to take a comprehensive look at our judicial system, its personnel, its dockets, etc., to make certain of its condition. I can, and do, report to you that, while not perfect, it is in excellent functional condition.

Just last year, my predecessor provided an excellent and comprehensive overview of the structure, as well as a brief catalogue of the function, of the various courts comprising the Maryland Judiciary and the adjunct agencies that serve it. Therefore, in the words of today's youth, I will not "go there." I will, instead, focus on the people who give the Judiciary life, without whom it could not function.

Maryland is blessed with, and fortunate to have, some of this nation's most respected, competent and hardworking judges. Men and women of the highest character, they bring integrity, dedication, understanding, and humanity to a calling that, speaking charitably, is difficult, often thankless, and too often frustrating. Day-in and day-out these extraordinary men and women cope with and dispose of huge and ever increasing caseloads, often characterized by complex and multifaceted issues with, if not unfailing enthusiasm, dedication and remarkable stamina and with a real and full commitment to the fair and even - without bias or prejudice - dispensing of justice consistent with the laws that this body has seen fit to enact.

Upon becoming a judge, having elected to serve a public calling and to forego any opportunities for

much greater personal financial gain, these men and women are required to set aside personal preferences and act only in the public interest. Moreover, from that time forward, their actions, their decisions, and, indeed, the results of their deliberations have an awesome impact on the basic fabric of our society. Chief Justice John Marshall, one of the greatest of the chief justices of the United States Supreme Court, observed, more than 160 years ago, that "[t]he judicial department comes home in its effects to every man's fireside; it passes on his property, his reputation, his life, his all." That is as true today as it was then. Consequently, unlike many other public employees, they, like Caesar's wife, must always be above reproach.

Supported by a cadre of over 3,500 hardworking, knowledgeable, and dedicated employees at both the State and local level, they people the courts where thousands of Maryland's citizens each year bring their disputes for a civilized resolution. In many of these courts are played out daily human dramas that reflect the very worst of society, that portray the under - seamy, if you will, — side of life. Thus, our judges regularly see and are forced to deal with a myriad of situations foreign to their life experiences and which are productive of stress and frustration. Those situations include an explosion of drug related crimes and violence, the disintegration of families, the abandonment of children, and the breakdown or total absence of regard for society or its people by certain of our citizens, including an ever increasing number of our young people. The latter situation has spawned an ever increasing need for, and emphasis on, court security and an understandable concern on the part of judges for personal safety.

As an aside, the Judiciary has recently instituted what we refer to as a "Judicial Ride-Along" program. It

is designed to enable all of you, as legislators and as citizens, to see first hand what goes on in courts and how they are operating. I promise you that what you see is not likely to resemble what you see on television, even when what is shown is a real, but high profile case. I strongly urge you to take advantage of this opportunity, at your convenience, and pay us a visit.

When I was appointed, in 1975, to the District Court of Maryland, the total caseload of the State's trial courts - the District and circuit courts - approached one million cases, (994,478 to be precise). At that time, the total number of judges authorized was 160, 80 District Court judges and 80 circuit court judges. We viewed, and said so, that caseload as incredibly high, given the complement of trial judges we had available to cope with the work. Of course, this was before the asbestos dockets, tobacco litigation, or mass toxic torts.

Last year, the District Court alone had filings of approximately 2,000,000 cases (1,952,387 to be exact). One category of cases, particularly vexing and frustrating for our judges, but extremely important not only to those affected but to society as well, domestic violence cases, have increased 70 percent in just the last three years. Almost 270,000

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***"I also am confident that it will continue to meet successfully every new and difficult challenge with the same dedication that has enabled it to cope with caseloads that have more than doubled in volume since 1975, are today more complicated, and involve greater numbers of issues".***

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cases (268,399 exactly) were filed in the circuit courts last year. And, like the District Court, though not so dramatically, domestic violence cases in the circuit courts also experienced substantial increases. Together, therefore, the combined caseload for these two trial court levels totaled 2,220,786, an increase of more than 120 percent in the 20 years since I became a judge. By contrast, the complement of trial judges had grown to only 234, an increase of less than 50 percent.

I am extremely proud of the performance of the Maryland Judiciary. I also am confident that it will continue to meet successfully every new and difficult challenge with the same dedication that has enabled it to cope with caseloads that have more than doubled in volume since 1975, are today more complicated, and involve greater numbers of issues. Efficiency - obtaining maximum results from our resources, getting the best from our active judges and making maximal use of our cadre of retired judges - and innovation - finding new and better ways of handling dockets and caseloads - are key reasons which explain the Judiciary's ability to continue to play a large and increasingly critical role in the daily lives of our citizens despite its relatively small numbers. An overriding reason for the Judiciary's success is attributable to the caliber of the people who have sought, and been appointed to, judicial office during this period. Not only are they persons of extraordinary ability, but they have demonstrated, over time, an unwavering commitment to the law, the people of this State, whom they serve, and to their oath. In that spirit, they have never sought to shirk their responsibilities, however burdensome; rather, they have proposed, cooperated with, or willingly implemented, ideas or programs that promised to make the processing and disposal of cases more efficient.

The Maryland Judiciary has been lucky, its judges have been willing to take on more and more responsibility, work longer hours, and cope with more stress, without commensurate remuneration, and with little or no complaint. Those qualities and the critical importance of the Judiciary to an ordered society, and, perhaps, to avoid continuing to rely on luck, prompted the Judicial Compensation Commission to recommend salary increases ranging from 7.23 To 10.09 Percent. That Commission was created by this distinguished body in 1980 for the purpose of "study[ing] and mak[ing] recommendations with respect to all aspects of judicial compensation, to the end that the judicial compensation structure shall be adequate to assure that highly qualified persons will be attracted to the bench and will continue to serve there without unreasonable economic hardship." I urge favorable consideration of those recommendations.

Much of the credit for the caliber of the Judiciary is due, in truth, to Robert Charles Murphy, on whose watch these changes have occurred. He set the tone for the Judiciary, accepting nothing less than the very best from all of us. For that reason, he sought to make do through the use of innovative ideas designed to make the system work more efficiently before seeking additional judgeships; it was to the alternative that may have demanded a little more of those of us already on board that he looked first, believing, perhaps, that the more efficient the system, the better it serves the citizenry. We owe him an enormous debt of gratitude.

I do not mean to suggest that we have always made do without requesting necessary new judgeships, only that we try to make such requests as a last, rather than first, resort and, then, only after a detailed study assessing judicial manpower needs. Indeed, the drill has been, continued by me this year, that each

year, in accordance with a policy initiated by the General Assembly, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals formally certifies the number of new judges, other than Orphans' Court judges, that are necessary properly to operate the State's courts. The certification is the end result of the application of a comprehensive set of criteria balanced against a pragmatic realization that caseloads increase at a faster pace than judges can be supplied. This year, we are seeking six (6) additional judgeships, four (4) circuit - one each for Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County - and two District - one each for Baltimore and Prince George's Counties.

Speaking of innovation and efficiency, by Chapter 561 of the Acts of 1995, the General Assembly created the Commission on the Future of Maryland Courts "to examine the Maryland court system as it now exists and to determine whether changes should be made to ensure that, in the succeeding decades, the courts can fulfill their mission of administering justice wisely, fairly, and efficiently." Chaired by a most outstanding Maryland lawyer, Mr. James Cromwell, the Commission is composed of a cross section of equally outstanding Marylanders, well-informed individuals from all three branches of government and from the private sector, knowledgeable in the ways and workings of the Judiciary, including distinguished members of the Bar and of this body, a judge who now sits on the Court of Appeals, and the very able and astute State Court Administrator, George B. Riffin, Jr.

As you well know, it now has made its final report. That report is comprehensive, articulate, and well reasoned. Besides echoing my sentiments with respect to the high quality of the Maryland Judiciary and the men and women who people it, judicial and nonjudicial alike, it also con-

tains recommendations that, if implemented, will have consequences for the court system that, at the very least, can only be described as significant. Not unexpectedly, the report has advocates and detractors. Before reviewing just a few of the more significant or frequently discussed recommendations, it must be said that, given the thoroughness of the process, whatever your inclination, the report deserves your careful study and serious consideration.

The Commission recommended: (1) consolidation of the existing circuit courts along the model of the District Court, but preserving local autonomy, where appropriate, to be fully funded by the State, and having a Chief Judge as its administrative head. Perhaps the most controversial and, ultimately, the most costly, it would create a major change in the current court structure. Thus, its implementation, as with several other recommendations, must be accomplished, if at all, by way of an amendment to our Constitution; (2) establishment of a State-wide personnel system for clerical and other nonjudicial and nonprofessional personnel designed to equalize the pay and other benefits of persons doing the same work. Although its objectives cannot reasonably be questioned, the devil is in the detail. Having recently wrestled with major personnel reforms, you certainly are fully familiar with the many difficult issues associated with such efforts; (3) abolition of the Orphans' Courts and transfer of their jurisdiction to the circuit courts. The choice this recommendation presents is between eliminating an unnecessary bureaucracy and retaining an institution with roots to colonial times, which is perceived to serve the public well; (4) abolition of contested circuit court judicial elections in favor of retention elections, an issue by no means new to this body; (5) develop and implement a system of judicial evaluations, designed to improve each judge's performance and pro-

vide information relevant to the decision whether, or not, to retain the judge. This recommendation goes hand in hand with the prior one; (6) abolition of the contested election of circuit court clerks and (7) abolition of the contested election of the Registers of Wills. Adoption of these recommendations, like the one relating to the election of judges, requires a Constitutional amendment and a phase-in period; (8) decriminalization of nonincarcerable traffic offenses and conducting their trial administratively. These are the so-called "rules of the road" cases such as running a stop-sign or exceeding the speed limit, which do not rise to the same level as an alcohol related driving offense or other more serious crime. Although District Court judges would be relieved of that caseload, again, the devil is in the detail; (9) mandatory alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in all but a few selected cases. For many years, courts have turned to ADR in various forms as a means to sustain court productivity and avoid undue delay in resolving cases; (10) abolition of trial de novo criminal appeals; (11) requiring all contested juvenile cases to be tried by a judge rather than a master; (12) establishment of a family division within the circuit court in all counties in which it is feasible, given the number of judges.

These recommendations, and perhaps some I have not mentioned, have generated a great deal of discussion among the judges and other affected persons and groups. Some, most notably the proposal to consolidate the circuit courts and those calling for the abolition of certain contested elections, have sparked real controversy. Some have been the subject of similar reports to this body. Proposals to consolidate the circuit courts were mentioned in each of Chief Judge Murphy's first three State of the Judiciary addresses and in Chief Judge Hammond's. Abolition of de novo criminal appeals from the District Court was

mentioned in three of the first four addresses, as was the call for the removal of circuit court judges from the electoral process. In 1972, Chief Judge Hammond alluded to the transfer of the Orphans' Court's jurisdiction to the circuit courts, while, in 1977, Chief Judge Murphy spoke at length about the "family court division" of the circuit court and transferring "minor traffic offenses" from the District Court to a new bureaucracy. All deserve, I reiterate, critical analysis.

Unlike in some quarters, the Judiciary has taken no firm position. Although I have begun the process of evaluating all of the recommendations in light of my new position, it is not yet complete. Input from my colleagues at all levels of the court, but especially from those most affected by particular proposals, is critical. Some, most notably on the issue of circuit court consolidation, I have already received; however, input on others of the recommendations, as well as from other sources, especially with respect to those issues as to which there are many divergent points of view, has not. Indeed, it is my intention to solicit the views of the State and local bar associations. The Commission has itself recognized that those recommendations that seem noncontroversial may present troublesome issues when the details are filled in. This report does not purport to fill in the details. The Judiciary will, I promise, formulate a position on each relevant issue in sufficient time to have input and meaningful participation in any debate that might precede the introduction of legislation. That said, I recognize, as the Commission report points out, that the success of its plan depends on a concerted effort by the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government. I also am aware that whether there will be such an effort depends, in turn, upon a threshold determination, whether the recommendations are, in fact, necessary to assure the proper and



efficient operation of the courts into the 21st century. Because, whatever the outcome of the debate, the impact will be felt well into the 21st century, it is critical that all branches of government give due consideration to that issue. I assure you that the Judiciary will and that it will share the results of its study with you timely and candidly.

I stated that I come before you today with a mixed message. Many observers of the courts would likely dispute my glowing assessment of the Maryland Judiciary. Despite our best efforts to date, the public's perceptions, and particularly its misperceptions, of how well the courts perform, have deteriorated over time. There is, in other words a gap between the reality of the situation and its perception.

Certainly, public dissatisfaction with the courts and the way they ad-

We may look forward to a near future when our courts will be swift and certain agents of justice, whose decisions will be acquiesced in and respected by all." If Pound were alive today, he no doubt would be shocked, if not greatly saddened and disappointed, that this era of judicial preeminence has yet to be realized.

In point of fact, over the last ten years, surveys in a number of states have uniformly reported that only 22 to 48% of the public have a high degree of confidence in the judicial system, or rate the court system as doing a good or excellent job. More recent surveys reflect that confidence in the courts is linked to confidence in public institutions generally. This is consistent with what we have all observed recently, that the public has become more critical of government in general, while at the same time expecting more of governmental services.

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***"How do courts inspire public trust and confidence? The answer is, I think, through their actions -good and prompt performance and sensitivity - and effective public communication. Certainly, trust and confidence must be commanded and earned, it cannot simply be demanded. With this in mind, the Maryland Judiciary is committed to closing the gap between perception and reality; we cannot and will not permit misperceptions of our courts to go unanswered".***

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minister justice is not new. In 1906, one of America's noted legal scholars, Roscoe Pound, delivered his celebrated address on "The Causes of Popular Dissatisfaction With the Administration of Justice," universally considered one of the most influential legal papers ever written. Pound believed that his address would at least promote, if not usher in, an era of great judicial reform. Having presented a lengthy, but careful, analysis of the causes of public dissatisfaction, he concluded his address with the observation, "...

And lack of confidence - being skeptical of the courts' ability to deliver equal treatment - is particularly strong among people of color: in a recent California survey, for example, 70% of African-American respondents reported a lack of confidence in the courts compared with 53% of the general population, which rated the courts as only fair or poor. The point to be derived from this data has neither a racial nor ethnic agenda, rather it simply illustrates that our courts face a crisis of confidence that

crosses racial, ethnic and economic lines.

While, as I have indicated, the court system is not the only public institution to suffer a crisis of confidence, it suffers perhaps more because its effectiveness is directly dependent on public trust, confidence and respect. As Alexander Hamilton noted in the Federalist Papers, the Judicial branch of government is the weakest and least dangerous branch of government because it has neither the power of the purse, nor the power of the sword. The Judicial branch, Hamilton observed further, has merely its own good judgment. More recently, the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall declared, along the same lines, "we must never forget that the only real source of power that we as judges can tap is the respect of the people."

How do courts inspire public trust and confidence? The answer is, I think, through their actions -good and prompt performance and sensitivity - and effective public communication. Certainly, trust and confidence must be commanded and earned, it cannot simply be demanded. With this in mind, the Maryland Judiciary is committed to closing the gap between perception and reality; we cannot and will not permit misperceptions of our courts to go unanswered. This will require a commitment to greater public outreach, a willingness to go beyond the courthouse walls to restore the public's faith and trust in the Judiciary as a viable institution of justice, accessible and affordable, color-blind, and fair. It is a commitment we must make, not only because it is right to do so, but also because, with the public's respect, the courts' effectiveness will be enhanced.

As I have already indicated, the courts have done a good job. There is, however, as there always is, room for improvement. Avoidable trial delays or unexplained time lapses be-

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***"We must also make the courts more accessible to those who cannot afford lawyers or lengthy proceedings, yet who need better court access".***

---

tween judicial rulings and mysterious court procedures must be avoided. Where delay is unavoidable, the reasons must be better communicated.

On the issue of better communication, the courts have not informed the public of their structure, functions, and programs or educated the community about the law very well. My intention and vision is for the Maryland Judiciary to increase its focus on public outreach to inform the public better as to how best they can negotiate what is to some a mysterious and sometimes tricky path to justice. Through both written and electronic Judiciary outreach programs, we intend to make our courts, and especially their procedures, more understandable and user friendly. As we speak, the Public Awareness Committee of the Judicial Conference, under the able leadership of Judge Angeletti, is in the process of designing programs and initiatives to that end. Moreover, so important is the demystification of the courts that the only restrictions on a judge's public outreach are those imposed by the Code of Judicial Conduct and the judge's court schedule. In other words, judicial involvement in the community is encouraged.

With your support, the Judiciary is engaged in a massive State-wide computer project to automate the circuit courts and provide better services to court users. The new circuit court case management system will have the capability for lawyers and the public to access court information remotely and, eventually, file

pleadings that way. Through extensive computer networking, the system will also provide judges with better information about the criminal records of defendants who appear before them, thus, making it more likely that proper sentences will be imposed upon a finding of guilt. It will also insure that the courts continue to absorb caseload increases, reduce trial delay, and enhance the services offered to court litigants. I might add that, unlike many of the failed automation projects you often read about in the news, the Judiciary case management automation project has been a complete success and is being migrated to jurisdictions throughout the State. I attribute this accomplishment to the hard work of the Administrative Office of the Courts, in partnership with the circuit court clerks' offices. Your continued support and funding of the project is critical.

We must also make the courts more accessible to those who cannot afford lawyers or lengthy proceedings, yet who need better court access. Aware that less than 20% of Maryland's low income population was being served by existing legal services for critical legal problems, most particularly, domestic and family law issues, with your support, the Judiciary has responded. We allocated funds to ten jurisdictions to enhance family-related services which support mediation, parenting seminars, the dissemination of legal information, lawyer referral, and automation. Last year, for the first time, the Judiciary requested and received funds to hire contractual court masters to reduce the time required to resolve domestic and family-related disputes in 15 counties, in which local funding was unavailable. Because of the importance and success of this initiative, we are seeking additional funds in our Fiscal 1998 Budget to increase this program. And we are working cooperatively with the Maryland State Bar Association

to develop sources of funding to replace that cut from the Legal Services Corporation's budget.

The Judiciary has formed a partnership with the Women's Law Center to establish and maintain a legal forms help line. It is a Statewide, toll-free telephone service staffed by experienced family law practitioners to assist litigants using simplified court forms. This is the only such Statewide service in the Nation and it has been recognized by the American Bar Association and the National Association of Court Management.

We have formed a partnership with the University of Maryland Law School to provide legal assistance to income eligible litigants using the services of supervised law school students at the courthouses in Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City. The use of students is unique to Maryland and has attracted considerable interest from many other states.

A partnership has also been formed between the Judiciary and the House of Ruth and the Women's Law Center to establish a pilot project in Baltimore City to provide both legal and service-related assistance to domestic violence litigants on site at the circuit court and the District Court.

Insuring equal access to indigent criminal defendants may have Constitutional implications, particularly as it relates to adequate representation and speedy trial. Last year, the State Judiciary reverted a portion of its FY 1996 Budget to support the Office of the Public Defender when, due to high caseload volume, it was unable to provide, in a number of cases, the representation statutorily or Constitutionally mandated. This was done in the interest of the system, for, in truth, the Public Defender, like the State's Attorney, is an integral part of the criminal justice system. It is not true, as many onlookers who are critical of State funding for the Public Defender would

suggest, that such support is somehow being "soft on crime." But providing adequate representation for indigent defendants is guaranteed under both the federal constitution and our own. In addition, this body has implemented those guarantees by enacting the Public Defender Act. The effect of insufficiently funding the Public Defender, therefore, serves no purpose other than to delay trial, a result which, ironically, usually benefits the defendant, rather than the victim.

In his 1975 State of the Judiciary Address, my predecessor commented, "We of the Judiciary are, of

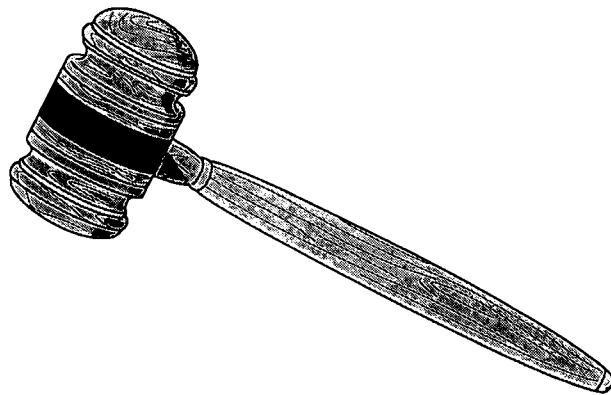
course, ever cognizant of the fact that we are servants of the people, even as we judge them; that courts exist, not for the convenience of judges, nor to provide a livelihood for lawyers, but solely for the administration of justice for all the people of Maryland, be they litigants, victims of crimes, advocates of freedom, or parents concerned with the State and country their children will inherit. We continue to be devout believers in the doctrine of separation of powers - of governmental checks and balances, in practice as well as in theory. We believe that each of the three coordinate branches of government, to

successfully accomplish its function, must work in harmony with the others, if the good government envisaged by the Constitutional creation of three branches - the Legislative, the Executive and the Judicial - is to be achieved."

Believing that accurately and fully describes the role of the courts and the way the government should work, I thank you and the Governor for your continuing support of the Judiciary and I look forward to carrying on that cooperative spirit. And, once again, I thank you for the privilege of appearing before you.



*Judicial  
Revenues  
And  
Expenditures*





# Judicial Revenues and Expenditures

In Fiscal Year 1997, state and local costs to support the operations of the Judicial branch of government were approximately \$221 million. The Judicial branch consists of the Court of Appeals; the Court of Special Appeals; the circuit courts; the District Court of Maryland; the circuit court clerks' offices; the Administrative Office of the Courts; the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Court of Appeals; the State Board of Law Examiners; the Maryland State Law Library; and the Commission on Judicial Disabilities. There were 254 judicial positions and approximately 3,500 non-judicial positions in the Judicial branch as of June 30, 1997. The State-funded Judiciary operates on a program budget and expended \$172,273,417 in Fiscal Year 1997.

The two appellate courts and their respective clerks' offices are funded by two programs. The circuit court program contains the compensation, travel, and educational costs for circuit court judges which totaled \$23,162,549, and the costs to operate the circuit court clerks' offices of \$47,307,136, all of which totaled \$70,469,685. The largest program is the State-funded District Court which expended \$74,156,451. The Maryland Judicial Conference contains funds for continuing judicial education and Conference activities. Remaining programs fund the Administrative Office, the Maryland State Law Library, the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, the State Board of Law Examiners, the State Reporter, and the Commission on Judicial Disabilities.

<b>Judicial Branch Personnel in Profile</b>	
<b>Judicial Personnel</b>	
Court of Appeals	7
Court of Special Appeals	13
Circuit Courts	134
District Court	100
<b>Non-Judicial Personnel</b>	
Court of Appeals	29
Court of Special Appeals	61
District Court	1,197.6
Administrative Office of the Courts	190.5
<b>Court-Related Offices</b>	
State Board of Law Examiners	6
Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure	3
State Law Library	10
State Reporter	1
Circuit Courts—Local Funding	883.2
Circuit Courts	1,123.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,758.4*</b>
*Includes allocated, temporary, and contractual positions.	

The Attorney Grievance Commission and the Clients' Security Trust Fund are supported by assessments paid by lawyers entitled to practice in Maryland. These supporting funds are not included in the Judicial budget.

The figures and tables show the State revenue and expenditures for Fiscal Year 1997. With the exception of three special funds, all revenues are remitted to the State's general fund. The Land Records Improvement Fund, created by statute effective in Fiscal Year 1992, permits a

surcharge by circuit court clerks for recording land instruments. The fund is used for essential land records automation and equipment to improve land records operations in the clerks' offices. The second special fund is the Victims of Crime Fund, also created by statute effective Fiscal Year 1992. The source of the funds are additional costs assessed in criminal cases, a portion of which are to be remitted to this fund to establish programs that provide victims and witness services. The third special fund is the State Transfer Tax. Prior to Fiscal Year 1993, State Transfer

Tax was deposited into the general fund. During Fiscal Year 1997, the circuit court clerk offices collected State Transfer Tax totaling \$67,191,124. Shown on the following tables is the total revenue collected by the circuit court clerks in Fiscal Year 1997 for court related and non-court related activities. A total of \$34,257,850 was collected for commissions on land records transactions, State licenses, court costs, and for criminal injuries compensation. In addition, the clerks' offices remitted \$163,954,790 to local governments for recordation taxes, licenses, and court fines. An additional \$2,928,197 was collected for the Land Records Improvement Fund, \$123,793 was collected for the Victims of Crime Fund, and \$129,065 was collected for the

Criminal Injury Compensation Fund. The District Court remitted \$67,666,798 in fees, fines, and costs to the State general fund. An additional \$7,315,465 was collected for various special funds (\$3,880,083 for the Law Enforcement Training Fund; \$2,633,843 for the Criminal Injury Compensation Fund; and \$801,539 for the Victims of Crime Fund).

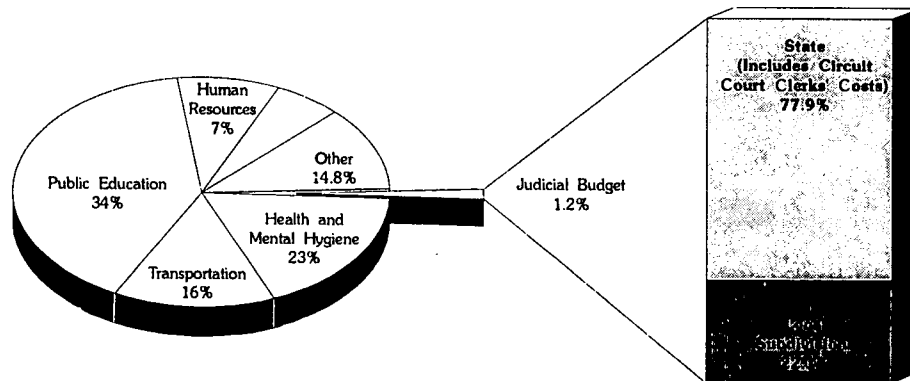
The total State budget was approximately \$14.7 billion in Fiscal Year 1997. The illustration reflects that the State-funded Judicial budget consumes about 1.2 percent of the entire State budget. Other expenditures of the circuit courts come from local appropriations from Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. These appropriations

were approximately \$48.8 million in Fiscal Year 1997. Revenues from fines, forfeitures and certain appearance fees are returned to the subdivisions, primarily for the support of the local court library.

Other court-related revenues collected by the circuit courts comes from fees and charges in domestic relations matters and service charges in collecting non-support payments.

The chart illustrating the contributions by the State and local subdivisions to support the Judicial branch of government, shows that the State portion accounts for approximately 77.9 percent of all costs, while the local subdivisions account for 22.1 percent.



STATE FUNDED PORTION OF JUDICIAL  
EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997FUNDING SOURCES FOR  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

## State Funded Judicial Budget

## General Revenues\*

Program	Actual FY 1995	Actual FY 1996	Actual FY 1997
Court of Appeals	\$ 95,423	\$ 118,208	\$ 118,459
Court of Special Appeals	115,900	114,291	111,854
Circuit Courts	**33,923,853	**33,369,537	**34,257,850
District Court	63,165,087	63,199,502	67,666,798
Administrative Office of the Courts	***1,064,336	***857,506	—
State Board of Law Examiners	613,484	613,665	635,742
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$98,978,083</b>	<b>\$98,272,709</b>	<b>\$102,790,703</b>

\*Please refer to the narrative for an explanation of the revenues. In addition, \$2,928,197 was remitted to the Land Records Improvement Fund, \$925,332 to the State's Victims of Crime Fund, and \$2,762,908 to the Criminal Injury Compensation Fund.

\*\*Prior to 1993, State Transfer taxes were included in General Fund revenue. Beginning in 1993, State Transfer taxes were allocated to a special fund. State Transfer taxes were \$67,191,124 for FY 1997.

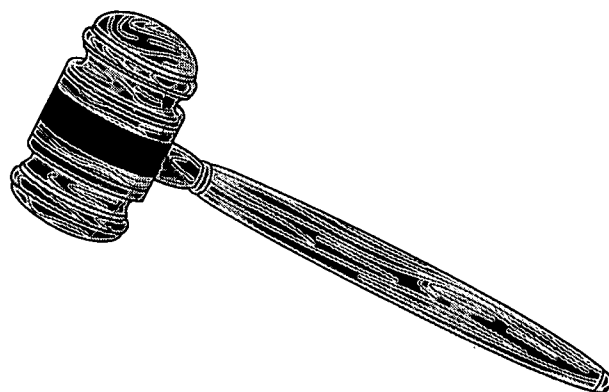
\*\*\*These funds were collected by the Administrative Office of the Courts through administration of the Federal Child Support Enforcement Agreement.

## Expenditures

Program	Actual FY 1995	Actual FY 1996	Actual FY 1997
Court of Appeals	\$ 2,532,578	\$ 2,637,370	\$ 2,774,267
Court of Special Appeals	4,738,510	4,925,649	4,969,544
Circuit Courts (Includes Circuit Court Clerks' Offices)	62,441,862	69,026,258	70,469,685
District Court	66,407,015	72,028,525	74,156,451
Maryland Judicial Conference	42,624	48,320	50,430
Administrative Office of the Courts	3,592,014	3,595,040	3,923,623
Court-Related Agencies	989,137	1,002,926	1,340,569
Maryland State Law Library	747,646	737,746	777,645
Judicial Data Processing	8,876,771	10,034,151	10,197,274
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150,368,157</b>	<b>\$164,035,985</b>	<b>\$168,659,488</b>



*The  
Maryland  
Judicial  
System*



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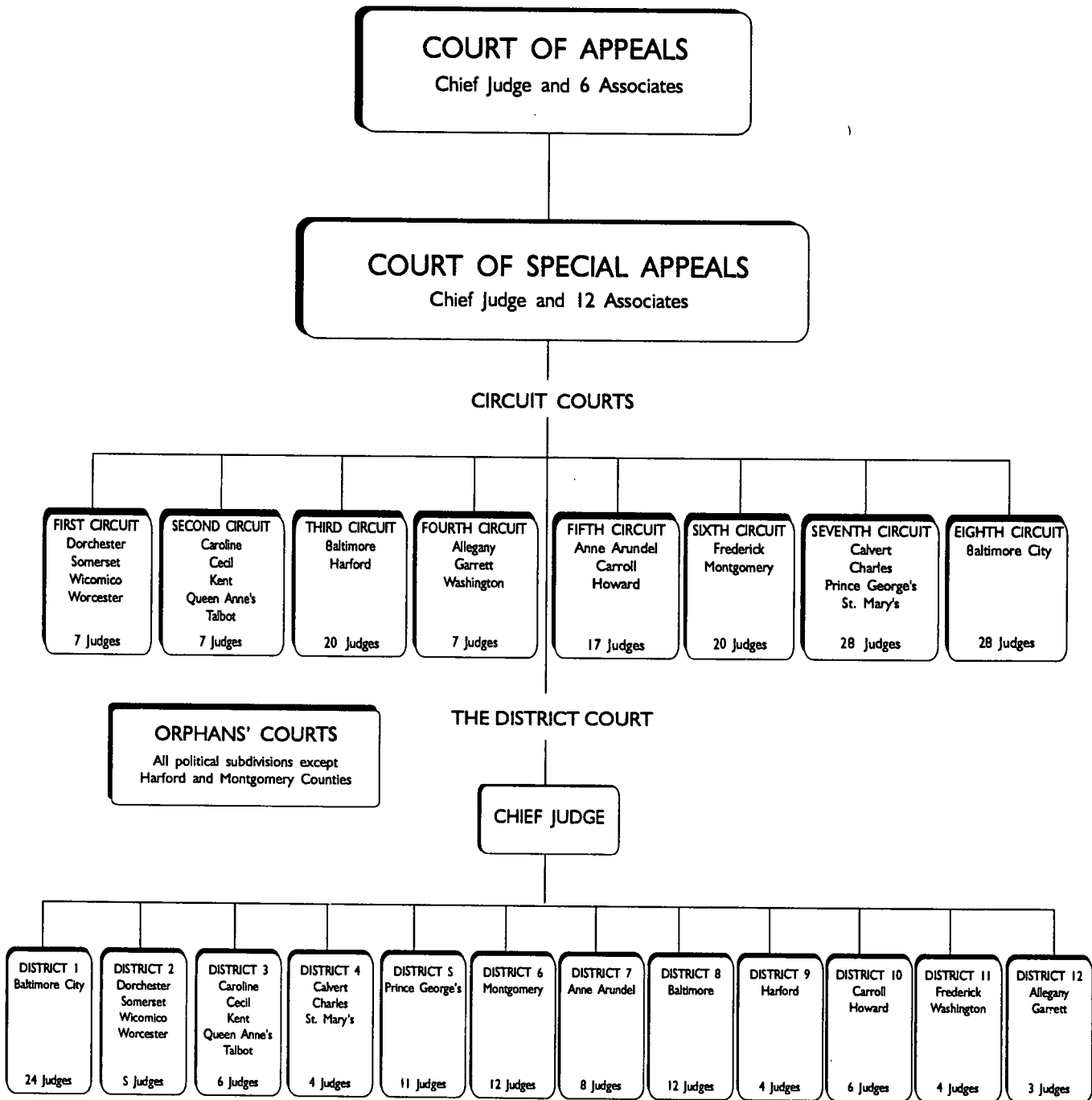
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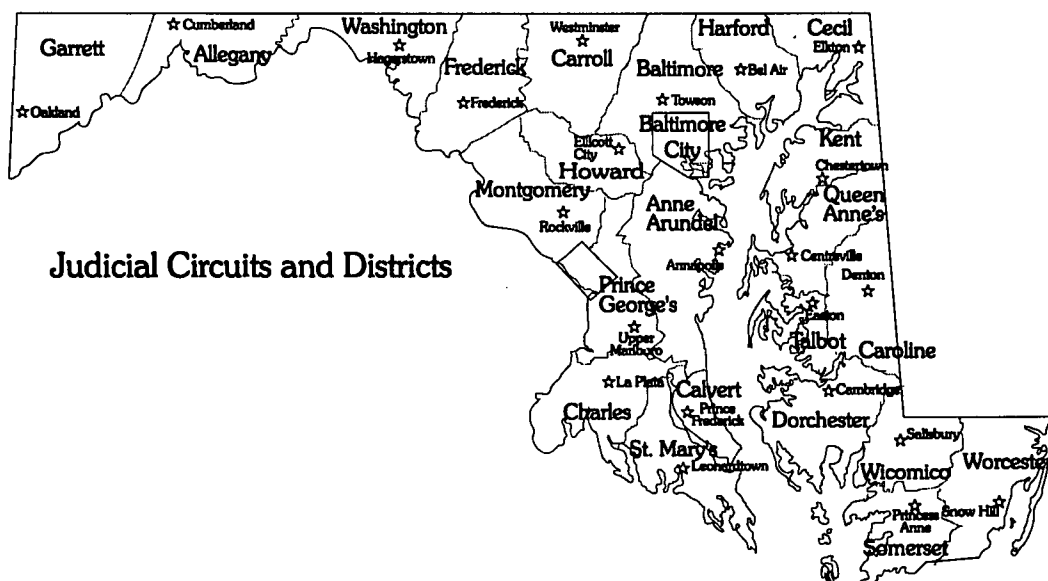
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# THE MARYLAND JUDICIAL SYSTEM

## FISCAL YEAR 1997



## STATE OF MARYLAND



### JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED IN APPELLATE CIRCUITS

- First Appellate Circuit - Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester
- Second Appellate Circuit - Baltimore and Harford
- Third Appellate Circuit - Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, and Washington
- Fourth Appellate Circuit - Prince George's
- Fifth Appellate Circuit - Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's
- Sixth Appellate Circuit - Baltimore City
- Seventh Appellate Circuit - Montgomery

### JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED IN JUDICIAL CIRCUITS

- First Judicial Circuit - Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester
- Second Judicial Circuit - Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot
- Third Judicial Circuit - Baltimore and Harford
- Fourth Judicial Circuit - Allegany, Garrett, and Washington
- Fifth Judicial Circuit - Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard
- Sixth Judicial Circuit - Frederick and Montgomery
- Seventh Judicial Circuit - Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's
- Eighth Judicial Circuit - Baltimore City

### JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED IN DISTRICT COURT DISTRICTS

- First District - Baltimore City
- Second District - Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester
- Third District - Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot
- Fourth District - Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's
- Fifth District - Prince George's
- Sixth District - Montgomery
- Seventh District - Anne Arundel
- Eighth District - Baltimore
- Ninth District - Harford
- Tenth District - Carroll and Howard
- Eleventh District - Frederick and Washington
- Twelfth District - Allegany and Garrett

## *Members of the Maryland Judiciary As of June 30, 1997*

### THE APPELLATE COURTS

#### The Court of Appeals

Hon. Robert M. Bell, CJ (6)  
Hon. John C. Eldridge (5)  
Hon. Lawrence F. Rodowsky (3)

Hon. Howard S. Chasanow (4)  
Hon. Robert L. Karwacki (1)

Hon. Irma S. Raker (7)  
Hon. Alan M. Wilner (2)

#### The Court of Special Appeals

Hon. Joseph F. Murphy, CJ (At-Large)  
Hon. Charles E. Moylan, Jr. (At-Large)  
Hon. William W. Wenner (3)  
Hon. Dale R. Cathell (1)  
Hon. Arrie W. Davis (6)

Hon. Glenn T. Harrell, Jr. (At-Large)  
Hon. Ellen L. Hollander (At-Large)  
Hon. James P. Salmon (4)  
Hon. James R. Eyler (2)  
Hon. Raymond G. Thieme (5)

Hon. Andrew L. Sonner (7)  
Hon. Deborah S. Byrnes (At-Large)  
Hon. James A. Kenney, III (At-Large)

### The Circuit Courts

#### First Judicial Circuit

Hon. Theodore R. Eschenburg, CJ  
Hon. Donald F. Johnson  
Hon. D. William Simpson  
Hon. Richard D. Warren  
Hon. Thomas C. Groton, III  
\*Hon. Daniel M. Long  
Hon. Sally D. Adkins

#### Second Judicial Circuit

Hon. Donaldson C. Cole, Jr., CJ  
\*Hon. J. Owen Wise  
Hon. Edward D.E. Rollins, Jr.  
Hon. John W. Sause, Jr.  
Hon. William S. Horne  
Hon. J. Frederick Price  
Hon. Dexter M. Thompson, Jr.

#### Third Judicial Circuit

\*Hon. Edward A. DeWaters, Jr., CJ  
Hon. J. William Hinkel  
Hon. John F. Fader, II  
Hon. Cypert O. Whitfill  
Hon. William O. Carr  
Hon. James T. Smith, Jr.  
Hon. Dana M. Levitz  
Hon. John G. Turnbull, II  
Hon. Maurice W. Baldwin, Jr.  
Hon. Stephen M. Waldron  
Hon. Barbara Kerr Howe  
Hon. Alfred L. Brennan, Sr.  
Hon. Christian M. Kahl  
Hon. Thomas J. Bollinger, Sr.  
Hon. J. Norris Byrnes  
Hon. Robert E. Cahill, Sr.  
Hon. John O. Hennegan  
Hon. Lawrence R. Daniels  
Hon. Robert E. Cadigan  
Hon. Thomas E. Marshall

#### Fourth Judicial Circuit

\*Hon. Frederick C. Wright, III, CJ  
Hon. J. Frederick Sharer  
Hon. Gary G. Leasure  
Hon. John H. McDowell  
Hon. James L. Sherbin  
Hon. W. Kennedy Boone, III  
Vacancy

#### Fifth Judicial Circuit

Hon. Luke K. Burns, Jr., CJ  
Hon. Eugene M. Lerner  
Hon. Martin A. Wolff  
Hon. James C. Cawood, Jr.  
Hon. Raymond J. Kane, Jr.  
Hon. Robert H. Heller, Jr.  
Hon. James B. Dudley  
Hon. Raymond E. Beck, Sr.  
Hon. Lawrence H. Rushworth  
Hon. Francis M. Arnold  
Hon. Dennis M. Sweeney  
\*Hon. Clayton Greene, Jr.  
Hon. Pamela L. North  
Hon. Diane O. Leasure  
Hon. Ronald A. Silkworth  
Hon. Lenore R. Gelfman  
Hon. Michael E. Loney

#### Sixth Judicial Circuit

Hon. DeLawrence Beard, CJ  
Hon. G. Edward Dwyer, Jr.  
Hon. J. James McKenna  
Hon. Mary Ann Stepler  
\*Hon. Paul H. Weinstein  
Hon. Vincent E. Ferretti, Jr.  
Hon. Paul A. McGuckian  
Hon. James L. Ryan  
Hon. Herbert L. Rollins  
Hon. Ann S. Harrington

Hon. S. Michael Pincus  
Hon. D. Warren Donohue  
Hon. William P. Turner  
Hon. Michael D. Mason  
Hon. Durke G. Thompson  
Hon. John H. Tisdale  
Hon. Martha G. Kavanaugh  
Hon. James C. Chapin  
Hon. Louise G. Scrivener  
Hon. Nelson W. Rupp, Jr.

#### Seventh Judicial Circuit

Hon. Robert J. Woods, CJ  
Hon. Robert H. Mason  
Hon. Richard J. Clark  
Hon. Arthur M. Ahalt  
Hon. G.R. Hovey Johnson  
Hon. Joseph S. Casula  
Hon. Darlene G. Perry  
Hon. John H. Briscoe  
Hon. Graydon S. McKee, III  
\*Hon. William D. Missouri  
Hon. Robert C. Nalley  
Hon. Marvin S. Kaminetz  
Hon. Steven I. Platt  
Hon. Lamzell Martin, Jr.  
Hon. Richard H. Sothoron, Jr.  
Hon. C. Philip Nichols, Jr.  
Hon. William B. Spellbring, Jr.  
Hon. Warren J. Krug  
Hon. Thomas P. Smith  
Hon. E. Allen Shepherd  
Hon. Marjorie L. Clagett  
Hon. Sherrie L. Krauser  
Hon. Steven G. Chappelle  
Hon. Michele D. Hotten  
Hon. Christopher C. Henderson

\*Circuit Administrative Judge

**The Circuit Courts (Continued)**

Hon. Sheila Tillerson Adams

Hon. Theresa A. Nolan

Vacancy

**Eighth Judicial Circuit**

Hon. Robert I.H. Hammerman, CJ

\*Hon. Joseph H.H. Kaplan

Hon. John Carroll Byrnes

Hon. Kenneth Lavon Johnson

Hon. Edward J. Angeletti

Hon. Thomas E. Noel

Hon. David B. Mitchell

Hon. Kathleen O'Ferrall Friedman

Hon. Clifton J. Gordy, Jr.

Hon. Mabel H. Hubbard

Hon. John N. Prevas

Hon. Ellen M. Heller

Hon. Roger W. Brown

Hon. John C. Themelis

Hon. Richard T. Rombro

Hon. Paul A. Smith

Hon. Joseph P. McCurdy, Jr.

Hon. Martin P. Welch

Hon. Carol E. Smith

Hon. Albert J. Matricciani, Jr.

Hon. David W. Young

Hon. Bonita J. Dancy

Hon. Gary I. Strausberg

Hon. Thomas J.S. Waxter, Jr.

Hon. William D. Quarles

Hon. Evelyn Omega Cannon

Hon. Allen L. Schwait

Vacancy

\*Circuit Administrative Judge

**The District Court of Maryland**

Hon. Martha F. Rasin, CJ

**District 1**

Hon. Martin A. Kircher

Hon. Alan M. Resnick

\*Hon. Mary Ellen T. Rinehardt

Hon. Charlotte M. Cooksey

Hon. H. Gary Bass

Hon. Keith E. Mathews

Hon. Askew W. Gatewood, Jr.

Hon. Alan J. Karlin

Hon. Theodore B. Oshrine

Hon. Kathleen M. Sweeney

Hon. Teaette S. Price

Hon. Barbara B. Waxman

Hon. Jamey H. Weitzman

Hon. C. Yvonne Holt-Stone

Hon. Gale R. Caplan

Hon. Norman E. Johnson, Jr.

Hon. Nancy B. Shuger

Hon. John M. Glynn

Hon. Jack I. Lesser

Hon. Ben C. Clyburn

Hon. Charles A. Chiapparelli

Hon. Audrey J. Carrion

Hon. John P. Miller

Hon. Timothy J. Doory

**District 2**

Hon. Robert D. Horsey

\*Hon. John L. Norton, III

Hon. R. Scott Davis

Hon. Richard R. Bloxom

Hon. Lloyd O. Whitehead

**District 3**

Hon. L. Edgar Brown

Hon. John T. Clark, III

Hon. William H. Adkins, III

\*Hon. James C. McKinney

Hon. Harry J. Goodrick

Hon. Floyd L. Parks, Jr.

**District 4**

Hon. C. Clarke Raley

Hon. Gary S. Gasparovic

\*Hon. Stephen L. Clagett

Hon. Richard A. Cooper

**District 5**

Hon. Gerard F. Devlin

Hon. John F. Kelly, Sr.

Hon. Thurman H. Rhodes

\*Hon. Frank M. Kratovil

Hon. Patrice E. Lewis

Hon. Josef B. Brown

Hon. Michael P. Whalen

Hon. Ronald D. Schiff

Hon. Melanie M. Shaw-Geter

Hon. Thomas J. Love

Vacancy

**District 6**

Hon. Louis D. Harrington

\*Hon. Cornelius J. Vaghey

Hon. Patrick L. Woodward

Hon. Dennis M. McHugh

Hon. Lee M. Sislen

Hon. Thomas L. Craven

Hon. Joanne T. Wills

Hon. Barry A. Hamilton

Hon. Eric M. Johnson

Hon. Patricia M. Goldberg

Hon. Mary E. McCormick

Vacancy

**District 7**

\*Hon. Joseph P. Manck

Hon. Vincent A. Mulieri

Hon. James W. Dryden

Hon. Essom V. Ricks, Jr.

Hon. Nancy L. Davis-Loomis

Hon. Robert C. Wilcox

Hon. Paul A. Hackner

Vacancy

**District 8**

\*Hon. John H. Garmer

Hon. A. Gordon Boone, Jr.

Hon. Patricia S. Pytash

Hon. Charles E. Foos, III

Hon. I. Marshall Seidler

Hon. Michael L. McCampbell

Hon. Barbara R. Jung

Hon. G. Darrell Russell

Hon. Alexander Wright, Jr.

Hon. Robert N. Dugan

Hon. Darryl G. Fletcher

Hon. Alexandra N. Williams

**District 9**

Hon. Lawrence S. Lanahan, Jr.

Hon. John L. Dunnigan

\*Hon. Emory A. Plitt, Jr.

Hon. Victor K. Butanis

**District 10**

\*Hon. James N. Vaughan

Hon. Louis A. Becker, III

Hon. JoAnn M. Ellinghaus-Jones

Hon. Marc G. Rasinsky

Hon. Neil E. Axel

Hon. Alice P. Clark

**District 11**

\*Hon. Frederick J. Bower

Hon. W. Milnor Roberts

Hon. R. Noel Spence

Hon. Ralph H. France, II

**District 12**

\*Hon. Paul J. Stakem

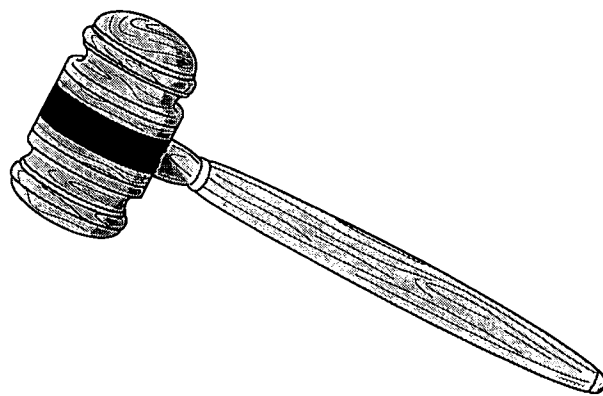
Hon. W. Timothy Finan

Hon. Ralph M. Burnett

\*District Administrative Judge



*The  
Court  
Of  
Appeals*





# The Court of Appeals

## Introduction

The Court of Appeals, the highest tribunal in the State of Maryland, was created by the Constitution of 1776. The Court sat in various locations throughout the State in the early years of its existence, but it has sat only in Annapolis since 1851. The Court is composed of seven judges, one from each of the seven appellate judicial circuits. The appellate judicial circuits were realigned after ratification of Chapter 103, Acts of 1994. As a result of that realignment, there are now seven appellate circuits. Montgomery and Prince George's Counties joined Baltimore City as single jurisdiction circuits. Members of the Court are initially appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Subsequently, they run for office on their records, unopposed. If a judge's retention in office is rejected by the voters or there is a tie vote, that office becomes vacant and must be filled by a new appointment. Otherwise, the incumbent judge remains in office for a ten-year term. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is designated by the Governor and is the constitutional administrative head of the Maryland Judiciary.

As a result of legislation effective January 1, 1975, the Court of Appeals hears cases almost exclusively by way of certiorari, a discretionary review process. That process has resulted in the reduction of the Courts' formerly excessive workload to a more manageable level, thus allowing the Court to devote more time to the most important and far-reaching issues.

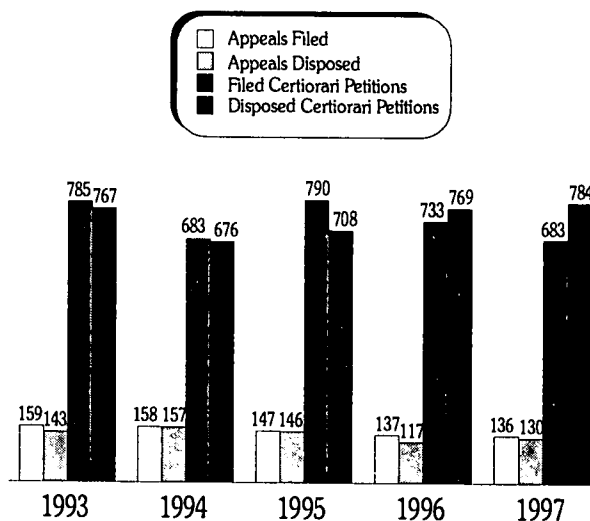
The Court may review cases already decided by the Court of Special Appeals or bring up for review, cases filed in that Court before they are decided. Additionally, the Court of Appeals has exclusive jurisdiction over appeals in which a sentence of death is imposed. Cases from the circuit court level also may be reviewed by the Court of Appeals if those courts have acted in an appellate capacity with respect to an appeal from the District Court. The Court is empowered to adopt rules of judicial administration, practice, and procedure which will have the force of law. It also admits persons to the practice of law, reviews recommendations of the State Board of Law Ex-

aminers and conducts disciplinary proceedings involving members of the bench and bar. Questions of law certified by federal and other state appellate courts also may be decided by the Court of Appeals.

A graphic comparison of regular docket and certiorari petition caseloads over the last five years is provided on Table CA-1. As indicated on the table, regular docket filings decreased, while terminations increased slightly over the five-year period. There were 136 regular docket filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997, a decrease of approximately 14.5 percent from the 159 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1993. A decrease of 9.1 percent was

TABLE CA-1

### COURT OF APPEALS APPEALS ACTUALLY FILED AND TERMINATED WITHIN FISCAL YEAR



realized in regular docket terminations during the same time period, from 143 terminations during Fiscal Year 1993, to the present level of 130 terminations. Certiorari petition filings also decreased (i.e., 13 percent) over the last five years, from

785 filings during Fiscal Year 1993, to 683 filings during Fiscal Year 1997, while certiorari terminations increased by 2.2 percent. There were 767 certiorari petition terminations reported during Fiscal Year 1993,

compared to the present level of 784 terminations.

### Filings

The September 1996 Docket formed the workload for the Court of Appeals for Fiscal Year 1997. Filings received from March 1 through February 28 are scheduled for argument on the September Term docket, beginning the second Monday in September through the beginning of the next term. Appellate court filings for the period of March 1 through February 28 are included in this report, while dispositions are counted using fiscal year data compiled July 1 through June 30.

During the 1996 Term, the Court of Appeals docketed 952 total filings, representing a decrease of 3.9 percent from the 991 filings reported during the 1995 Term. Decreases in regular docket filings, certiorari petitions and miscellaneous filings contributed to the overall decrease. There were 720 certiorari petitions filed during the 1996 Term, a decrease of 3.4 percent from the 745 filings recorded during the 1995 Term. Regular docket filings decreased by 11.4 percent over the two-year period, from 149 filings during the 1995 Term, to the present level of 132 filings. A decrease of 32.6 percent or 14 filings was noted in miscellaneous appeals (i.e., 43 filings during the 1995 Term, compared to 29 filings during the 1996 Term). The only categorical increase occurred in attorney grievance filings. There were 71 attorney grievance filings reported during the 1996 Term, an increase of 31.5 percent over the 1995 Term level of 54 filings.

To request a review of decisions or pending cases initially appealed to the Court of Special Appeals from the circuit and Orphans' courts, a petition for certiorari may be filed. The Court grants those petitions it deems to be "desirable and in the public interest." Additionally, certiorari may be granted to re-

**TABLE CA-2**  
**ORIGIN OF APPEALS BY**  
**APPELLATE JUDICIAL CIRCUITS AND JURISDICTIONS**  
**COURT OF APPEALS**  
**1996 TERM**

<b>FIRST APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11.4%</b>
Caroline County	0	
Cecil County	1	
Dorchester County	1	
Kent Count	0	
Queen Anne's County	0	
Somerset County	1	
Talbot County	3	
Wicomico County	5	
Worcester County	4	
<b>SECOND APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13.6%</b>
Baltimore County	17	
Harford County	1	
<b>THIRD APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14.4%</b>
Allegany County	4	
Carroll County	3	
Frederick County	3	
Garrett County	1	
Howard County	6	
Washington County	2	
<b>FOURTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14.4%</b>
Prince George's County	19	
<b>FIFTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
Anne Arundel County	9	
Calvert County	0	
Charles County	2	
St. Mary's County	1	
<b>SIXTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21.2%</b>
Baltimore City	28	
<b>SEVENTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15.9%</b>
Montgomery County	21	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

view circuit court decisions on matters appealed from the District Court.

The Court of Appeals considered 784 certiorari petitions during Fiscal Year 1997. That figure comprises 430 petitions for civil cases (i.e., 54.8 percent) and 354 petitions for criminal cases (i.e., 45.2 percent). Review of the petitions resulted in 101 or 12.9 percent of the petitions being granted, 664 or 84.7 percent of the petitions being denied, and 14 or 1.8 percent of the petitions being dismissed by the Court. In addition, five petitions were withdrawn (Table CA-6).

The Court's regular docket from year-to-year consists of cases that have been granted certiorari, as well as cases pending in the Court of Special Appeals that will be heard on the Court's own motion. The Court of Appeals conducts a monthly review of appellants' briefs from cases

pending in the Court of Special Appeals for the purpose of identifying those cases suitable for consideration by the higher court.

During the 1996 Term, a decrease of 11.4 percent was noted in regular docket appeals, from 149 filings during the 1995 Term, to the present level of 132 filings. Civil matters for the Court (e.g. law, equity, and juvenile cases) comprised 73.5 percent of the regular docket appeals (i.e., 97 filings), while the remaining 26.5 percent (i.e., 35 filings) involved matters of a criminal nature.

As indicated on Table CA-2, the greatest number of cases was reported by Baltimore City. Approximately 21.2 percent (i.e., 28 cases) of the regular docket appeals were reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction, while Montgomery County reported 21 cases or 15.9 percent of the regular docket appeals. Prince George's County fol-

lowed with 19 cases or 14.4 percent of the docketed cases. Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties contributed 17 cases (i.e., 12.9 percent) and nine cases (i.e., 6.8 percent), respectively. The remaining 38 cases were appealed from the other 19 jurisdictions (Table CA-2).

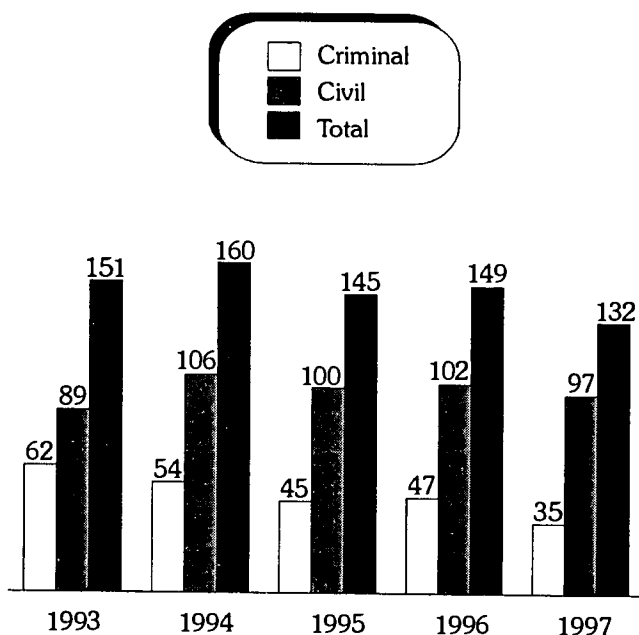
### Dispositions

The Court of Appeals disposed of 974 cases during Fiscal Year 1997. That figure represents an increase of 2.4 percent over the previous year's total of 951 case dispositions. Increases were noted in three categories — regular docket appeals, certiorari petitions and attorney grievance dispositions. The only categorical decrease occurred in miscellaneous dispositions. There were 784 certiorari petitions disposed of during the fiscal year, compared to 769 certiorari dispositions reported during Fiscal Year 1996, an increase of 2 percent. Regular docket dispositions increased 11.1 percent over the two-year period, from 117 dispositions during Fiscal Year 1996, to the present level of 130 dispositions. Likewise, the number of attorney grievance dispositions rose from 31 dispositions during Fiscal Year 1996, to 37 dispositions during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 19.4 percent. Conversely, miscellaneous appeals decreased by 25 percent, from 28 dispositions during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 1997 total of 21 dispositions. The Court of Appeals admitted 1,818 persons to the practice of law, including 192 attorneys from other jurisdictions.

Included in the 130 regular docket appeals disposed during Fiscal Year 1997 were two cases were from the 1994 Docket, 63 cases from the 1995 Docket, 58 cases from the 1996 Docket, and seven cases from the 1997 Docket. Approximately 41.5 percent of the decisions (i.e., 54 cases) of the lower court were affirmed, while 32.3 percent (i.e., 42 cases) were reversed. The Court also vacated and remanded 15 decisions

TABLE CA-3

#### APPEALS DOCKETED BY TERM COURT OF APPEALS REGULAR DOCKET



**TABLE CA-4**  
**FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS**  
**COURT OF APPEALS**  
**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	<b>Filings</b>	<b>Dispositions</b>
Regular Docket	136	130
Petitions for Certiorari	683	784
Attorney Grievance Proceedings	88	37
Bar Admission Proceedings	3	2
Certified Questions of Law	3	0
Miscellaneous Appeals	28	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>974</b>

(i.e., 11.5 percent) handed down by the lower court. Eight decisions were affirmed in part and reversed in part; four were dismissed prior to argument or submission; six were dismissed without an opinion; and one decision was dismissed with an opinion. Approximately 65.4 percent of the disposed cases involved civil matters, while 32.3 percent were of a criminal nature. There were three juvenile appeals considered and disposed during Fiscal Year 1997 (Table CA-7).

The Court of Appeals issued 118 majority opinions, including 14 per curiam opinions. In addition, there were 18 dissenting opinions, six concurring opinions and one opinion that was concurring in part and dissenting in part.

### ***Pending***

At the close of Fiscal Year 1997, the Court had pending before it 118 cases. That figure included nine cases from the 1995 Docket; 70 cases from the 1996 Docket; and 39 cases from the 1997 Docket. Of the 118 cases pending at the end of Fiscal Year 1997, there were 87 civil cases pending; one juvenile case pending; and 30 criminal cases pending. Approximately 73.7 percent the Court's pending caseload included civil matters, while 25.4 percent involved criminal matters.

### ***Trends***

The Court of Appeals has experienced fluctuating filing activity over the last five years. Total filings have decreased by 6.5 percent, from 1,018 filings during the 1992 Term, to the present level 952 filings. Dur-

ing the last five years, certiorari petitions decreased by 5.9 percent, from 765 petitions during the 1992 Term, to 720 petitions during the 1996 Term. Likewise, a 12.6 percent decrease occurred in regular docket appeals, from 151 during the 1992 Term, to the current level of 132 appeals. During the 1992 Term, the regular docket comprised 89 civil cases and 62 criminal cases. Those figures compare to 97 civil cases and 35 criminal cases filed during the 1996 Term. Miscellaneous appeals also decreased over the five-year period (i.e., 34.1 percent), from 44 filings during the 1992 Term, to the current level of 29 miscellaneous appeals. The only categorical increase over the last five years occurred in attorney grievance appeals, from 58 appeals docketed during the 1992 Term, to the present level of 71 attorney grievance appeals, an increase of 22.4 percent.

During the last five years, the number of regular docket dispositions has fluctuated as well. During Fiscal Year 1993, there were 143 dispositions recorded. That figure compares to the present level of 130 dispositions, a decrease of 9.1 percent.

The average amount of time expended from granting of certiorari to rendering a decision increased from 8.8 months during Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 10 months. Pending caseload decreased from 127 cases at the close of Fiscal Year 1993, to 118 cases at the close of Fiscal Year 1997, a decrease of 7.1 percent.

**TABLE CA-5  
CASES PENDING  
COURT OF APPEALS**

**Regular Docket  
June 30, 1997**

	<b>Civil</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>Criminal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Origin</b>				
1995 Docket	5	0	4	9
1996 Docket	53	1	16	70
1997 Docket	29	0	10	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>118</b>

**TABLE CA-6  
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE  
PETITION DOCKET DISPOSITIONS  
(PETITIONS FOR CERTIORARI)**

**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

<b>Petitions</b>	<b>Granted</b>	<b>Dismissed</b>	<b>Denied</b>	<b>Withdrawn</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage of Certiorari Petitions Granted</b>
<b>Civil</b>						
1992-93	63	7	295	0	365	17.3%
1993-94	63	3	267	3	336	18.8%
1994-95	63	3	314	2	382	16.5%
1995-96	69	11	301	1	382	18.1%
1996-97	76	8	342	4	430	17.7%
<b>Criminal</b>						
1992-93	48	3	350	1	402	11.9%
1993-94	40	12	286	2	340	11.8%
1994-95	39	0	286	1	326	12.0%
1995-96	39	6	342	0	387	10.1%
1996-97	25	6	322	1	354	7.1%

**TABLE CA-7**  
**DISPOSITION OF COURT OF APPEALS CASES**  
**Regular Docket**  
**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	Civil	Juvenile	Criminal	Total
Affirmed	40	0	14	54
Reversed	25	1	16	42
Dismissed-Opinion Filed	1	0	0	1
Dismissed Without Opinion	3	1	2	6
Remanded Without Affirmance or Reversal	0	0	0	0
Vacated and Remanded	7	1	7	15
Affirmed in Part, Reversed in Part	6	0	2	8
Dismissed Prior to Argument or Submission	3	0	1	4
Origin				
1994 Docket	2	0	0	2
1995 Docket	39	2	22	63
1996 Docket	41	1	16	58
1997 Docket	3	0	4	7
<b>Total Cases Disposed During Fiscal 1997</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>130</b>



**TABLE CA-8**  
**AVERAGE TIME INTERVALS FOR CASES**  
**DISPOSED BY COURT OF APPEALS**

**Regular Docket**

**JULY 1, 1996—June 30, 1997**

**FISCAL 1997**

	<b>Certiorari Granted to Argument or to Disposition Without Argument*</b>	<b>Argument to Decision**</b>	<b>Certiorari Granted to Decision*</b>
Days	169	148	299
Months	5.6	4.9	10.0
Number of Cases	130	111	130
<p>* Includes all cases disposed in Fiscal 1997.  ** Includes all cases disposed in Fiscal 1997 which were argued.</p>			

**TABLE CA-9**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**AVERAGE TIME INTERVALS**  
**FOR FILING OF APPEALS ON THE REGULAR DOCKET**  
**COURT OF APPEALS**

**(In Days and Months)**

<b>Docket</b>	<b>Original Filing to Disposition In Circuit Court</b>	<b>Disposition In Circuit Court To Docketing In Court of Appeals</b>
1992	370 12.3	147 4.9
1993	437 14.6	149 5.0
1994	401 13.4	142 4.7
1995	332 11.1	142 4.7
1996	365 12.2	152 5.1

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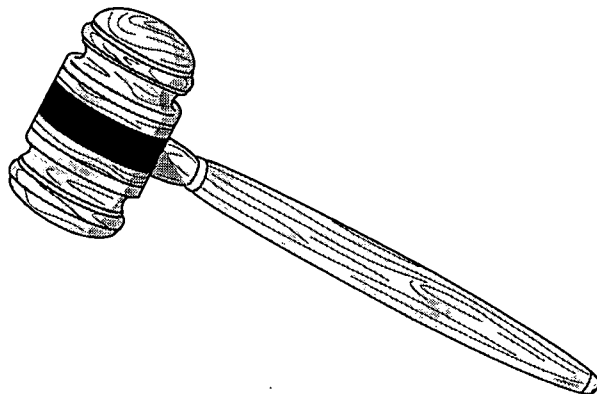
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# The Court of Special Appeals

## Introduction

Maryland's intermediate appellate court, the Court of Special Appeals, was created in 1966 to address a substantial backlog in the Court of Appeals that had developed as a result of a rapidly increasing caseload.

The Court of Special Appeals sits in Annapolis and is composed of thirteen members, including a chief judge and twelve associates. One member of the Court is elected from each of the seven Appellate Judicial Circuits. The remaining six members are elected from the State at large. Members of the Court of Special Appeals are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The judges run on their records without

opposition for ten-year terms. The Governor designates the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals.

The Court has exclusive initial appellate jurisdiction over any reviewable judgment, decree, order or other action of a circuit court and generally hears cases appealed directly from the circuit courts unless otherwise provided by law. The judges of the Court are empowered to sit in panels of three. A hearing or rehearing before the Court en banc may be ordered in any case by a majority of the incumbent judges. The Court also considers applications for leave to appeal in such areas as post conviction, habeas corpus matters involving denial of or excessive bail,

inmate grievances, appeals from criminal guilty pleas, and violations of probation.

## Filings

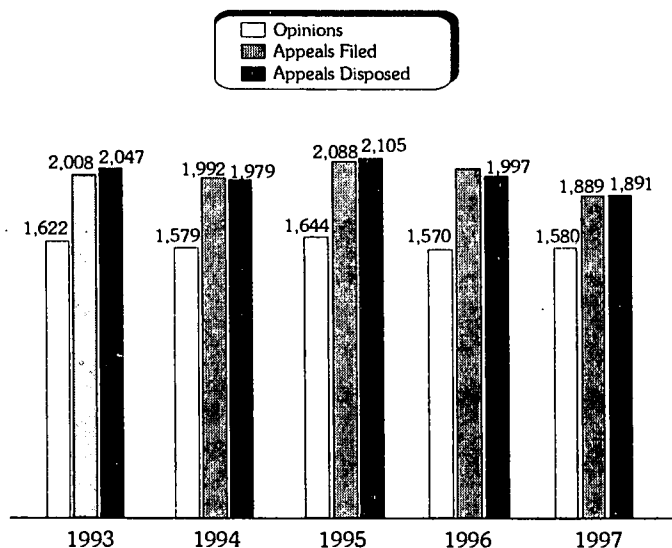
The Court's workload for 1997 was primarily comprised of cases placed on the September 1996 Docket. Filings received from March 1 through February 28 were entered on the September Term docket for argument beginning the second Monday in September and ending in June. In this report, filings are counted by term, March 1 through February 28, while dispositions are counted by fiscal year, July 1 through June 30.

For the September 1996 Term, the Court of Special Appeals docketed 1,913 filings, a decrease of 6.3 percent from the previous year's total of 2,042 filings. Categorically, approximately 60.7 percent of the Court's caseload comprised civil matters, while the remaining 39.3 percent involved matters of a criminal nature. During the 1996 Term, decreases were noted in both civil and criminal filings. There were 1,162 civil filings reported, a decrease of 4.6 percent from the 1,218 filings reported during the September 1995 Term. An 8.9 percent decrease was realized in criminal filings, from 824 filings during the 1995 Term, to the present level of 751 filings (Table CSA-3).

The Court has implemented statutorily prescribed procedures in an effort to more effectively manage its civil and criminal caseloads. Maryland Rule 8-204 and Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article Section 12-302, which removes the right of

TABLE CSA-1

### COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS-APPEALS ACTUALLY FILED AND TERMINATED WITHIN FISCAL YEAR



**TABLE CSA-2**  
**ORIGIN OF APPEALS BY**  
**APPELLATE JUDICIAL CIRCUITS AND JURISDICTIONS**  
**COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS**  
**1996 TERM**

<b>FIRST APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>10.8%</b>
Caroline County	15	
Cecil County	30	
Dorchester County	16	
Kent County	16	
Queen Anne's County	12	
Somerset County	14	
Talbot County	22	
Wicomico County	59	
Worcester County	23	
<b>SECOND APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>16.4%</b>
Baltimore County	262	
Harford County	52	
<b>THIRD APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>10.8%</b>
Allegany County	27	
Carroll County	43	
Frederick County	31	
Garrett County	8	
Howard County	64	
Washington County	33	
<b>FOURTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>14.8%</b>
Prince George's County	284	
<b>FIFTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>11.7%</b>
Anne Arundel County	143	
Calvert County	16	
Charles County	53	
St. Mary's County	11	
<b>SIXTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>19.0%</b>
Baltimore City	363	
<b>SEVENTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>16.5%</b>
Montgomery County	316	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

direct appeal in those criminal cases in which a guilty plea has been entered, were adopted to more effectively manage the criminal caseload. An application for leave to appeal is now required in those instances in which a guilty plea has been entered

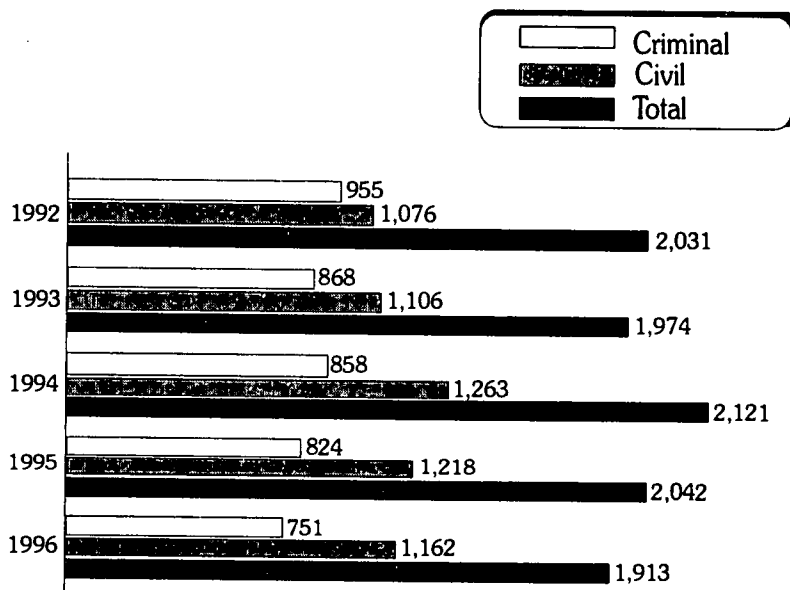
in a criminal case. The Court has discretionary authority to either assign the case to the regular docket or deny the appeal (Table CSA-6).

The trend of criminal filings since the procedure was implemented indicates that the intent has

been effectively realized. Criminal filings have not exceeded the 1982 Term total which was the term immediately preceding the adoption of the procedure.

With respect to expediting its civil appeal process, the Court of Special Appeals has used pre-hearing conferences. During the conferences, panels of judges review pending civil cases to identify cases suitable for resolution by the parties. In accordance with Maryland Rule 8-206, the number of civil filings reported does not include civil notices of appeal filed in the clerks' offices. Maryland Rule 8-206.a.1 stipulates that these appeals are either scheduled for pre-hearing conferences or proceed through the regular appellate process. If the pre-hearing conferences result in disposition, the cases are not assigned to the regular docket, nor are they reported as filings. In those instances where there is no resolution at the conference, the cases are placed on subsequent dockets and counted as filings. An information report, or summary of the actions of the circuit court, is filed whenever an appeal has been noted. There were 1,317 information reports received by the Court of Special Appeals during the 1996 Term, representing a decrease of 8.7 percent from the previous year's total of 1,443 reports. The Court scheduled 343 of the reports for pre-hearing conferences (Table CSA-4). With respect to the disposition of the reports scheduled for pre-hearing conferences, 190 or 55.4 percent proceeded without limitation of issues, 91 or 26.5 percent were dismissed or settled before, at or as a result of the conferences, and 31 or 9 percent were dismissed or remanded following the conferences. Additionally, three (i.e., 0.9 percent) had their issues limited at or as a result of the conferences, two (i.e., 0.6 percent) proceeded with expedited appeals and one (i.e., 0.3 percent) was transferred to the Court of Appeals. The remaining 25 cases (i.e., 7.3 percent)

TABLE CSA-3

APPEALS DOCKETED BY TERM  
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS

were still pending at the close of the term.

Of the five larger jurisdictions, Baltimore City accounted for the greatest number of filings during the 1996 Term with 363 regular docket appeals, comprising approximately 19 percent of the cases. That figure represents a decrease of 12.5 percent from the 415 filings reported during the 1995 Term. Montgomery County followed with 316 filings (i.e., 16.5 percent), an increase of approximately 3.9 percent over the 1995 Term level of 304 filings. There were 284 filings (i.e., 14.8 percent) reported by Prince George's County during the 1996 Term, a decrease of 15.7 percent from the 337 filings reported during the previous term. Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties reported 262 filings (i.e., 13.7 percent) and 143 filings (i.e., 7.5 percent), respectively. The number of filings reported by Baltimore County

decreased by 13.7 percent, from 272 during the 1995 Term, to 262 filings during the 1996 Term. Conversely, Anne Arundel County reported a 7.5 percent increase, from 133 filings during the 1995 Term, to the present level of 143 filings. Approximately 16 percent of the trials conducted in the circuit courts during Fiscal Year 1996 were docketed on the regular docket in the Court of Special Appeals during the 1996 Term (Table CSA-9).

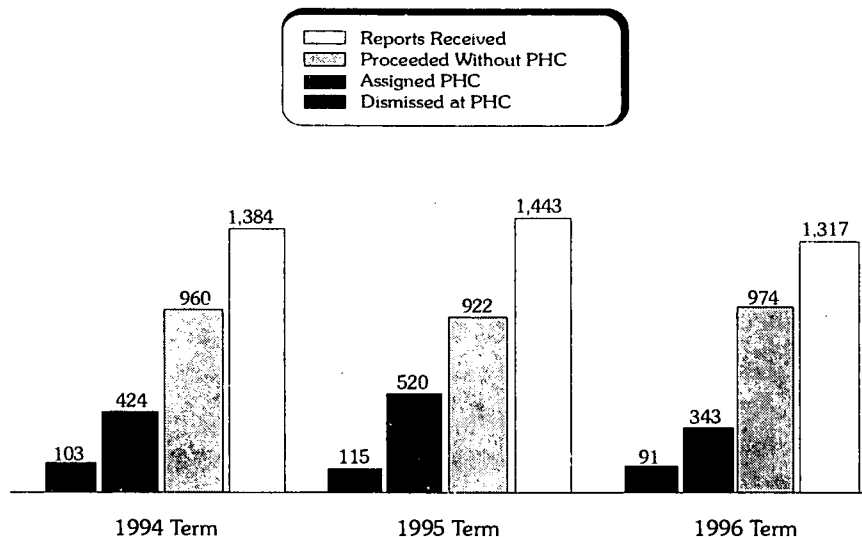
### Dispositions

During Fiscal Year 1997, the Court of Special Appeals disposed of 1,891 regular docket cases, a decrease of 5.3 percent from the 1,997 dispositions reported during Fiscal Year 1996. Nearly 60 percent (i.e., 1,130 cases) of the disposed cases involved civil matters, while 40.2 percent (i.e., 760 cases) involved criminal matters. The remaining fil-

ing was of a juvenile nature (Table CSA-7).

The Court of Special Appeals affirmed 1,042 or 55.1 percent of the lower court's decisions, while reversing 174 or 9.2 percent. Approximately 52 percent of the affirmances were for criminal cases, while 66 percent of the reversals involved civil cases. Categorically, there were 364 cases dismissed prior to argument or submission of briefs, 142 cases were affirmed in part and reversed in part, and 90 cases were vacated. The Court also dismissed 31 cases with an opinion being filed, remanded 11 without affirmance or reversal, and transferred 37 cases to the Court of Appeals. With respect to the origin of the appeals, two cases were from the 1993 Docket; eight cases were from the 1994 Docket; 401 cases were from the 1995 Docket; 1,452 cases were from the 1996 Docket; and 28

TABLE CSA-4  
PREHEARING CONFERENCE REPORTS  
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS



cases were from the 1997 Docket (Table CSA-7).

The Court of Special Appeals also disposed of 436 cases on its miscellaneous docket. Included in that figure are 260 post conviction cases, 19 inmate grievance cases, 66 violation of probation cases, and 91 miscellaneous cases (i.e., habeas corpus, motions for execution, guilty pleas). In disposing of its miscellaneous docket, the Court granted 21 applications for leave to appeal, denied 411 applications and remanded three. One case was either dismissed or transferred (Table CSA-6).

The Court of Special Appeals averaged 5.5 months from docketing of an appeal to argument or to disposition without an argument during Fiscal Year 1997. For the same time period, there was an average of 1.4 months from argument to decision (Table CSA-10).

There were 1,580 majority opinions issued by the Court of Special Appeals during Fiscal Year 1997. Included in that figure were 1,355 unreported opinions and 225

reported opinions. In comparison, the Court filed 1,579 opinions during Fiscal Year 1994, 1,644 opinions during Fiscal Year 1995, and 1,570 opinions during Fiscal Year 1996. There also were six concurring opinions and 29 dissenting opinions filed during Fiscal Year 1997.

### Pending

At the close of Fiscal Year 1997, there were 1,007 cases pending before the Court of Special Appeals, representing a decrease of 1.3 percent from the 1,020 cases reported as pending at the close of Fiscal Year 1996. Included in the Fiscal Year 1997 pending caseload were three cases from the 1993 Docket, eight cases from the 1995 Docket, 386 cases from the 1996 Docket, and 610 cases from the 1997 Docket. The pending cases are primarily consisting of matters that have been scheduled for argument during the September 1997 Term, as well as cases that have been argued and are awaiting issuance of opinions (Table CSA-8).

### Trends

Filing activity for the Court of Special Appeals has fluctuated over the last five years, ranging from a low of 1,913 during the 1996 Term, to a high of 2,121 during the 1994 Term. Since the 1992 Term, total filings have decreased by 5.8 percent, from 2,031, to the current level of 1,913 filings. The overall decrease can be attributed to an 8 percent increase in civil filings, mitigated by a 21 percent decrease in criminal filings. Civil filings rose from 1,076 filings during the 1992 Term, to the current level of 1,162 filings. In contrast, criminal filings decreased by more than 200 filings, from 955 filings during the 1992 Term, to the present level of 751 filings. Criminal filings have steadily decreased over the five-year period, while civil filings have fluctuated. During the last five years, the Court has experienced fluctuating disposition activity with an overall decrease of 7.6 percent, from 2,047 regular docket dispositions during Fiscal Year 1993, to the present level of 1,891 dispositions. An increase of



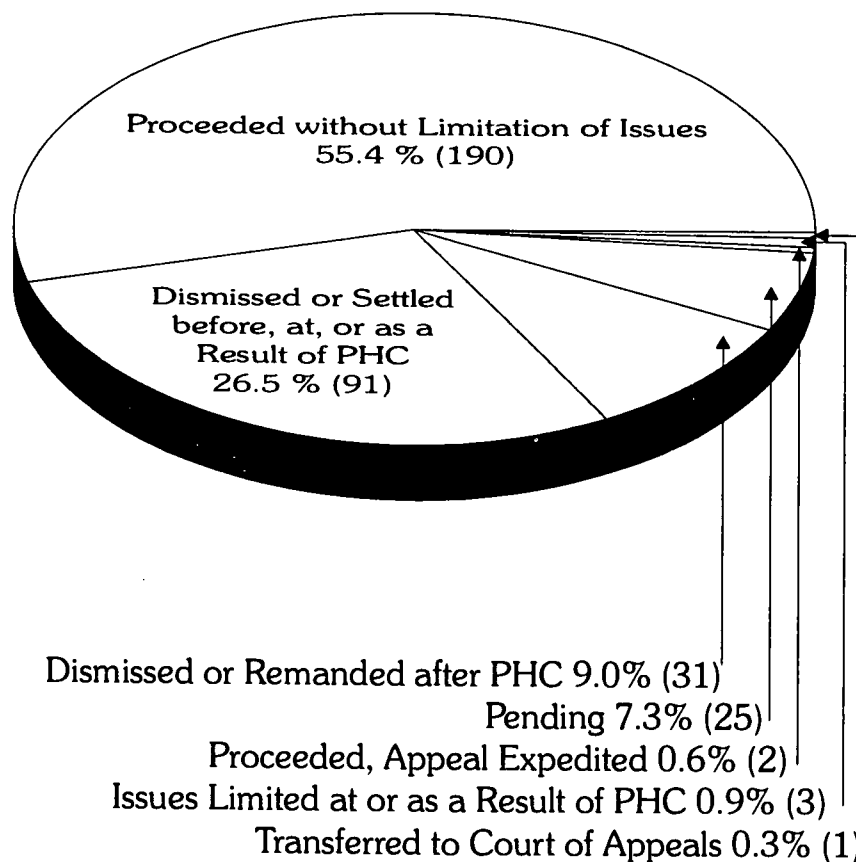
31.3 percent was noted in miscellaneous docket dispositions during the five-year period. There were 332 dispositions reported during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to the current level of 436 dispositions. Contributing to this increase were increases in post conviction, violation of probation and inmate grievance dispositions. The most significant percentage increase (i.e., 200 percent) occurred in violation of probation dispositions, from 22 during Fiscal Year 1993, to

66 during Fiscal Year 1997. Post conviction dispositions increased by 28.1 percent, from 203 dispositions during Fiscal Year 1993, to the present level of 260 dispositions. Inmate grievance dispositions also increased during the five-year period, from 15 during Fiscal Year 1993, to 19 dispositions during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 26.7 percent. The Court of Special Appeals experienced an increase of 4.6 percent in its pending caseload. There were 963 cases

pending at the close of Fiscal Year 1993, compared to 1,007 cases pending at the close of this fiscal year. The amount of time expended from the docketing of a case to its argument remained relatively consistent during the last five years (i.e., 5.4 months during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to 5.5 months during Fiscal Year 1997).

TABLE CSA-5

### DISPOSITION OF INFORMATION REPORTS ASSIGNED FOR PREHEARING CONFERENCE 1996 TERM



**TABLE CSA-6**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**DISPOSITION OF APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL**  
**AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CASES**

**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>POST CONVICTION-TOTAL</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>260</b>
Granted	19	3	14	10	15
Dismissed or Transferred	0	0	0	0	0
Denied	184	55	221	205	242
Remanded	0	0	1	3	3
<b>INMATE GRIEVANCE-TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>
Granted	0	1	3	0	1
Dismissed or Transferred	0	0	0	0	0
Denied	15	26	25	21	18
Remanded	0	2	0	0	0
<b>OTHER MISCELLANEOUS-TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>91</b>
Granted	3	3	5	1	4
Dismissed or Transferred	0	0	0	0	1
Denied	87	16	112	69	86
Remanded	2	0	2	0	0
<b>VIOLATIONS OF PROBATION-TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>66</b>
Granted	1	14	4	2	1
Dismissed or Transferred	0	0	0	1	0
Denied	21	133	122	66	65
Remanded	0	1	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>436</b>

**TABLE CSA-7**  
**CASES DISPOSED BY**  
**COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS**  
**Regular Docket**  
**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	Civil	Juvenile	Criminal	Total
Affirmed	503	1	538	1,042
Reversed	115	0	59	174
Dismissed—Opinion Filed	30	0	1	31
Dismissed Without Opinion	0	0	0	0
Remanded Without Affirmance or Reversal	6	0	5	11
Vacated	75	0	15	90
Affirmed in Part, Reversed in Part	79	0	63	142
Dismissed Prior to Argument or Submission	291	0	73	364
Transferred to Court of Appeals	31	0	6	37
Origin				
1993 Docket	2	0	0	2
1994 Docket	5	0	3	8
1995 Docket	234	1	187	401
1996 Docket	889	0	563	1,452
1997 Docket	21	0	7	28
<b>Total Cases Disposed During Fiscal 1997</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>1,891</b>

**TABLE CSA-8**  
**PENDING CASES**  
**COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS**  
**Regular Docket**  
**June 30, 1997**

	Civil	Juvenile	Criminal	Total
Origin				
1993 Docket	3	0	0	3
1994 Docket	0	0	0	0
1995 Docket	5	0	3	8
1996 Docket	207	0	179	386
1997 Docket	362	0	248	610
<b>Total Cases Pending at Close of Fiscal 1997</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>1,007</b>
Includes pending cases to be heard during September Term 1997.				

TABLE CSA-9

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS  
FILINGS ON 1996 REGULAR DOCKET  
AND CIRCUIT COURT TRIALS IN FISCAL 1996**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Court of Special Appeals 1996 Regular Docket</b>	<b>Circuit Court Fiscal 1996 Trials</b>	<b>Ratio of Appeals to Trials</b>
Prince George's County	284	551	.52
Baltimore County	262	823	.32
Montgomery County	316	977	.32
Kent County	16	56	.29
Talbot County	22	77	.29
Wicomico County	59	210	.28
Frederick County	31	114	.27
Harford County	52	228	.23
Somerset County	14	65	.22
Howard County	64	299	.21
Baltimore City	363	2,340	.16
Calvert County	16	100	.16
Caroline County	15	108	.14
Anne Arundel County	143	1,210	.12
Garrett County	8	70	.11
Charles County	53	545	.10
Allegany County	27	288	.09
Washington County	33	379	.09
Dorchester County	16	209	.08
St. Mary's County	11	142	.08
Queens Anne's County	12	147	.08
Worcester County	23	655	.04
Carroll County	43	1,331	.03
Cecil County	30	885	.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,913</b>	<b>11,809</b>	<b>.16</b>

**TABLE CSA-10****AVERAGE TIME INTERVALS FOR  
CASES DISPOSED BY  
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS****Regular Docket  
JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997  
FISCAL 1997**

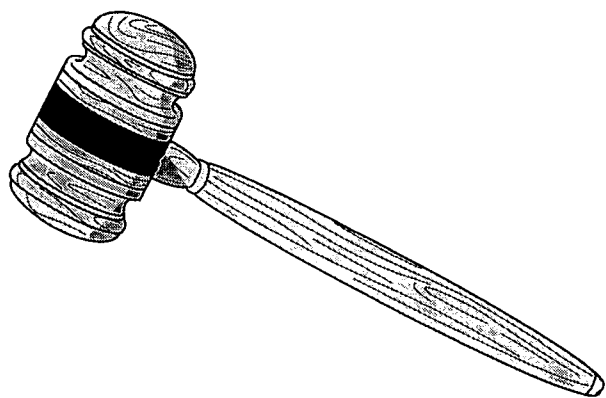
	<b>Docketing to Argument or to Disposition Without Argument *</b>	<b>Argument to Decision**</b>
Days	165	41
Months	5.5	1.4
Number of Cases	1,891	1,474
* Includes all cases Disposed in Fiscal 1997.		
** Includes all cases Disposed in Fiscal 1997 which were argued.		

**TABLE CSA-11****FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE  
AVERAGE TIME INTERVALS  
FOR FILING OF APPEALS ON THE REGULAR DOCKET  
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS  
(IN DAYS AND MONTHS)**

<b>Docket</b>	<b>Original Filing to Disposition In Court Below</b>	<b>Disposition in Circuit Court to Docketing in Court of Special Appeals</b>
1992	401 13.4	130 4.3
1993	415 13.8	128 4.3
1994	418 13.9	128 4.3
1995	408 13.6	129 4.3
1996	407 13.6	135 4.5



*The  
Circuit  
Courts*







## *The Circuit Courts*

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### **Introduction**

The circuit courts are the highest common law and equity courts of record exercising original jurisdiction within the State. Each has full common law and equity powers and jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases within its county, along with all of the additional powers and jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution and the law, except when jurisdiction has been limited or conferred upon another tribunal by law.

In each county of the State and Baltimore City, there is a circuit court which is a trial court of general jurisdiction. Its jurisdiction is very broad but, generally, it handles the major civil cases and more serious criminal matters. The circuit courts also decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies.

The courts are grouped into eight geographical circuits. Each of the first seven circuits comprises two or more counties, while the Eighth Judicial Circuit only consists of Baltimore City. On January 1, 1983, the former Supreme Bench was consolidated into the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

As of July 1, 1996, there were 134 authorized circuit court judgeships, with at least one judge for each county and 28 in Baltimore City. Unlike the other three court levels in Maryland, there is no chief judge who is administrative head of the circuit courts. There are, however, eight circuit administrative judges appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. They perform administrative duties in each of their respective circuits and are assisted by county administrative judges.

Each circuit court judge initially is appointed to office by the Governor and must stand for election at the next general election which follows, by at least one year, the vacancy the judge was appointed to fill. The judge may be opposed by one or more members of the bar. The successful candidate is elected to a fifteen-year term of office.

### **Filings**

During Fiscal Year 1997, there were 270,602 total filings reported by the circuit courts, an increase of less than 1 percent over the previous year's total of 268,399 filings. Contributing to the reported increase were increases in civil and juvenile filings, with the greatest increase occurring in juvenile filings. There was a 6.6 percent increase realized in juvenile case filings, from 40,903 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 1997 level of 43,582 filings. Civil filings increased by approximately 0.1 percent, from 157,743 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 157,899 filings. The only decrease, however slight, occurred in criminal case filings. There were 69,753 criminal filings reported during Fiscal Year 1996, compared to the Fiscal Year 1997 level of 69,121 filings, a decrease of 0.9 percent (Table CC-3).

Civil filings comprised approximately 58 percent of the caseload in the circuit courts during Fiscal Year 1997. The five larger jurisdictions — Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and Baltimore City — reported a combined total of 108,720 civil filings, accounting for nearly 69 percent of the total civil filings. That

figure compares with the previous year's total of 110,534 filings or 70.1 percent. Prince George's County reported the greatest number of civil filings with 28,930, a slight decrease of 1.2 percent from the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 29,293 filings. Baltimore City followed with 26,877 filings, representing a decrease of 3.8 percent from the previous year's total of 27,946 filings. There were 24,451 civil filings reported by Montgomery County during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 7.7 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 22,711 civil case filings. Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties both reported decreases during the fiscal year. Baltimore County reported a 1 percent decrease, from 15,574 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 15,429 filings. Likewise, a decrease of more than 13 percent was noted by Anne Arundel County, from 15,010 civil filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to 13,033 filings during Fiscal Year 1997.

Within the civil case type, a 5.8 percent decrease was noted in domestic-related case filings, while paternity filings decreased nearly 9 percent. There were 89,522 domestic-related filings recorded during Fiscal Year 1997, compared to the previous year's total of 94,988 filings. Likewise, paternity filings decreased from 32,678, to the current level of 29,877 filings. A reduction in contract filings (i.e., from 7,122 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 6,263 during Fiscal Year 1997) also was realized over the two-year period. "Other" law case filings rose from 3,779 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 6,682 filings, an increase of

approximately 76.8 percent (Table CC-8).

In exercising jurisdiction formerly held by an orphan's court, the Circuit Court for Montgomery County conducted 256 hearings and executed 7,757 orders. The Circuit Court for Harford County, which exercises the same jurisdiction, conducted 45 hearings and issued 600 orders.

Criminal case filings decreased slightly during Fiscal Year 1997, from 69,753 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 69,121 filings, a decrease of approximately 0.9 percent. Criminal cases accounted for approximately 26 percent of the Fiscal Year 1997 caseload. The combined total reported by the five larger jurisdictions comprised 69.7 percent of all criminal case filings. Baltimore City reported the greatest number with 22,785 filings. That figure represents an increase of 4.8 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 21,736 criminal filings. Prince George's County followed with 8,907 filings, representing a slight increase of 0.6 percent over the 8,851 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1996. There were 7,571 filings reported by Baltimore County, demonstrating a decrease of 2.8 percent from the 7,789 filings reported during the previous year. Decreases were noted in both Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties. Montgomery County's criminal case filings decreased from 5,293 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to the present level of 4,516 filings, a decrease of 14.7 percent. Likewise, there were 4,419 criminal filings reported by Anne Arundel County during Fiscal Year 1997, a decrease of 10.1 percent from the prior year's total of 4,917 filings.

Contributing to the overall decrease in criminal case filings was a 6.5 percent decline in the number of requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court. There were 21,711 jury trial prayers filed during

Fiscal Year 1997, compared to the previous year's total of 23,217 filings. Four of the five larger jurisdictions reported decreases in jury trial prayer requests. The greatest decrease, 30.6 percent, occurred in Prince George's County, from 3,628 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 2,518 filings. Montgomery County followed with a decrease of 28.6 percent, from 1,713 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to 1,223 filings during Fiscal Year 1997. Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties experienced decreases of 9 percent and 13.9 percent, respectively. There were 2,143 jury trial prayers reported by Baltimore County during Fiscal Year 1997, compared to 2,354 filings during Fiscal Year 1996. Anne Arundel County's 596 filings compare to the previous year's total of 692 filings. The only increase in jury trial prayers among the five larger jurisdictions was reported by Baltimore City. There were 3,841 filings reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction, an increase of 18 percent over the 3,255 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1996.

As previously mentioned, the greatest increase was reported in juvenile case filings. During Fiscal Year 1997, there were 43,582 filings reported, an increase of 6.6 percent over the previous year's total of 40,903 filings. Juvenile filings comprised approximately 16 percent of the total caseload of the circuit courts for Fiscal Year 1997. That figure is slightly higher than the previous year when juvenile filings accounted for more than 15 percent of the caseload. Nearly 76 percent of all juvenile filings, (i.e., 33,121) were reported by the five larger jurisdictions. Baltimore City reported the greatest number with 11,483 juvenile filings. That figure represents an increase of 11.9 percent over the 10,260 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1996. Montgomery County followed with 6,781 filings, a decrease of 1.9 percent from the previous year's total of

6,915 filings. Prince George's and Baltimore Counties reported 6,324 and 4,800 filings, respectively. The 6,324 filings reported by Prince George's County represent an increase of 7.6 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 5,880 juvenile filings. Likewise, Baltimore County's juvenile caseload increased by 4.6 percent, from 4,589 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 4,800 filings. There were 3,733 juvenile filings reported by Anne Arundel County during Fiscal Year 1997. That figure is relatively consistent with the 3,735 filings reported during the previous year.

Categorically, increases were noted in both delinquency and C.I.N.A. filings. Delinquency filings increased by 5.8 percent or 1,730 filings during Fiscal Year 1997, from 29,900 filings during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 31,630 filings. There were 11,142 C.I.N.A. filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 4.4 percent or 473 filings over the previous year's total of 10,669 filings.

### **Terminations**

The circuit courts recorded 224,596 terminations during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 1.8 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 220,527 terminations. Increases in civil and juvenile terminations, mitigated by a decrease in criminal terminations contributed to the slight overall increase. Approximately 83 percent of the cases filed during Fiscal Year 1997 were terminated. That figure is relatively consistent with the 82 percent termination rate reported during Fiscal Year 1996.

There were 124,699 civil cases terminated during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 4.8 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 118,964 terminations. Civil terminations comprised 55.5 percent of all cases terminated during Fiscal Year 1997, while the five larger jurisdictions comprised 66.1 percent (i.e., 82,187

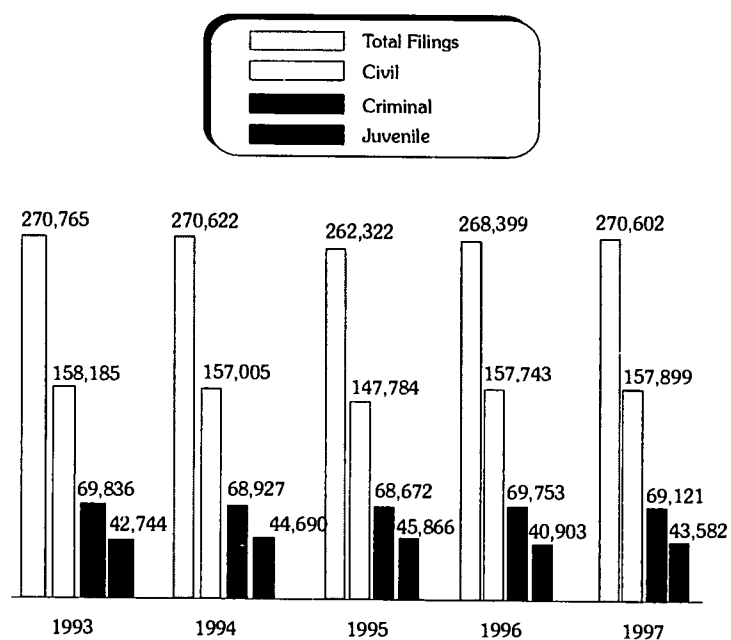
terminations) of all civil cases terminated. Prince George's County reported the greatest number of civil terminations with 27,063 cases. That figure represents an increase of 17.8 percent over the 22,964 cases reported during Fiscal Year 1996. Contributing to the increase was a 20.7 percent rise in domestic-related terminations. There were 14,572 terminations reported during Fiscal Year 1996, compared to the present level of 17,586 domestic-related case terminations. Montgomery County reported 22,498 civil terminations during Fiscal Year 1997, compared to 18,653 terminations reported during Fiscal Year 1996, a 20.6 percent increase. The overall increase in civil terminations reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction can be attributed to a 21.2 percent rise in domestic-related terminations, from 8,019 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 9,721 terminations. There were 11,895 civil terminations reported by Anne Arundel County during Fiscal Year 1997, a decrease of 15.5 percent from the 14,086 terminations reported during Fiscal Year 1996. Contributing to this decrease were decreases in domestic-related and "other" terminations. Anne Arundel County's domestic-related terminations decreased 24.7 percent, from 8,334 in Fiscal Year 1996, to the Fiscal Year 1997 level of 6,278 terminations. "Other" civil terminations decreased from 344 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the present level of 164 terminations, a decrease of 52.3 percent. Baltimore City and Baltimore County both reported decreases in civil terminations as well. There were 9,053 civil cases terminated by Baltimore City during Fiscal Year 1997, a decrease of 3.1 percent from the previous year's level of 9,345 terminations. Likewise, Baltimore County reported a rather slight decrease of 0.3 percent, from 11,717 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 11,678 civil terminations (Table CC-9).

The circuit courts reported 64,087 criminal terminations during Fiscal Year 1997, a decrease of 4.3 percent from the 66,954 reported during Fiscal Year 1996. Approximately 28.5 percent of all cases terminated during Fiscal Year 1997 comprised criminal matters. The five larger jurisdictions reported a combined total of 44,497 criminal terminations, accounting for more than 69 percent of all criminal cases terminated. Baltimore City reported the greatest number of criminal terminations with 20,689, a decrease of 1.9 percent from the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 21,085 terminations. A 4 percent decline in indictment and information terminations contributed to the overall decrease reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction. Prince George's and Baltimore Counties followed reporting 7,819 and 7,272 terminations, respectively. The 7,819 terminations reported by Prince George's County represent a decrease of 5.2 percent from the Fis-

cal Year 1996 level of 8,248 terminations, while Baltimore County's criminal terminations decreased by 1.9 percent from the previous year's level of 7,415 terminations. Contributing to the decrease reported by Prince George's County was a 26.7 percent reduction in jury trial prayers, from 3,376 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the present level of 2,474 terminations. Baltimore County also reported a decrease in jury trial prayers (i.e., from 2,314 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 2,085 during Fiscal Year 1997), a contributing factor to the overall decrease. There were 4,372 criminal terminations reported by Montgomery County, a decrease of approximately 12.9 percent from the previous year's total of 5,018 terminations. The 4,345 criminal terminations reported by Anne Arundel County represent a 12.9 percent decrease from the 4,986 terminations reported during Fiscal Year 1997. Factors contributing to the decreases reported by the two aforementioned

TABLE CC-1

## CIRCUIT COURT - FILINGS BY FISCAL YEAR



<b>TABLE CC-2</b> <b>FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE</b> <b>ALL CASES</b> <b>FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS</b> <b>FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997</b>										
<b>COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED</b>										
	<b>1992-93</b>		<b>1993-94</b>		<b>1994-95</b>		<b>1995-96</b>		<b>1996-97</b>	
	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>11,296</b>	<b>10,922</b>	<b>11,096</b>	<b>10,563</b>	<b>11,079</b>	<b>10,564</b>	<b>12,004</b>	<b>11,140</b>	<b>12,515</b>	<b>11,187</b>
Dorchester	2,068	2,121	2,044	1,852	1,901	1,708	1,928	1,773	1,881	1,706
Somerset	2,046	1,938	2,026	1,927	2,051	2,075	2,175	2,076	2,314	2,288
Wicomico	3,986	3,530	3,936	3,531	3,924	3,825	4,532	4,155	4,935	4,129
Worcester	3,196	3,333	3,090	3,253	3,203	2,956	3,369	3,136	3,385	3,064
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>10,013</b>	<b>9,699</b>	<b>10,041</b>	<b>9,694</b>	<b>10,750</b>	<b>9,844</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>10,438</b>	<b>11,331</b>	<b>10,296</b>
Caroline	1,440	1,329	1,302	1,206	1,541	1,404	1,678	1,547	1,362	1,155
Cecil	4,413	4,076	4,328	4,230	4,718	4,092	4,982	4,287	4,913	4,263
Kent	1,171	1,274	1,392	1,281	1,324	1,290	1,432	1,392	1,548	1,409
Queen Anne's	1,388	1,440	1,351	1,337	1,357	1,356	1,686	1,632	1,719	1,793
Talbot	1,601	1,580	1,668	1,640	1,810	1,702	1,622	1,580	1,789	1,676
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>32,815</b>	<b>30,645</b>	<b>33,537</b>	<b>30,113</b>	<b>34,110</b>	<b>29,888</b>	<b>34,895</b>	<b>28,777</b>	<b>35,491</b>	<b>28,819</b>
Baltimore	25,455	24,573	26,500	24,267	26,810	22,960	27,952	23,209	27,800	22,538
Harford	7,360	6,072	7,037	5,846	7,300	6,928	6,943	5,568	7,691	6,281
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>9,099</b>	<b>8,480</b>	<b>10,544</b>	<b>10,621</b>	<b>10,206</b>	<b>9,583</b>	<b>11,263</b>	<b>10,241</b>	<b>11,717</b>	<b>11,173</b>
Allegany	2,795	2,578	3,224	3,310	2,680	2,528	3,230	2,994	3,452	3,894
Garrett	1,099	1,094	1,150	1,069	1,152	1,005	1,168	1,074	1,101	995
Washington	5,205	4,808	6,170	6,242	6,374	6,050	6,865	6,173	7,164	6,284
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>39,866</b>	<b>39,161</b>	<b>39,671</b>	<b>38,367</b>	<b>38,276</b>	<b>35,707</b>	<b>38,146</b>	<b>36,982</b>	<b>35,092</b>	<b>32,820</b>
Anne Arundel	26,250	27,030	26,362	25,094	24,053	21,761	23,662	22,751	21,185	19,814
Carroll	6,236	4,934	6,296	6,064	6,143	5,853	5,937	6,036	5,567	5,674
Howard	7,380	7,197	7,013	7,209	8,080	8,093	8,547	8,195	8,340	7,332
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>48,564</b>	<b>38,322</b>	<b>46,242</b>	<b>37,012</b>	<b>39,127</b>	<b>32,750</b>	<b>40,668</b>	<b>34,315</b>	<b>42,119</b>	<b>38,603</b>
Frederick	5,155	4,759	5,219	4,577	5,356	4,417	5,749	4,120	6,371	5,151
Montgomery*	43,409	33,563	41,023	32,435	33,771	28,333	34,919	30,195	35,748	33,452
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>51,999</b>	<b>46,841</b>	<b>55,213</b>	<b>50,303</b>	<b>59,298</b>	<b>54,166</b>	<b>60,081</b>	<b>52,748</b>	<b>61,192</b>	<b>55,936</b>
Calvert	2,807	2,813	2,801	2,628	3,752	3,734	4,450	4,604	4,598	4,125
Charles	5,456	5,012	5,712	5,228	6,785	5,950	6,902	6,561	7,340	6,005
Prince George's	39,748	35,686	42,721	38,950	44,664	40,576	44,024	36,860	44,161	40,887
St. Mary's	3,988	3,330	3,979	3,497	4,097	3,906	4,705	4,723	5,093	4,919
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>67,113</b>	<b>61,736</b>	<b>64,278</b>	<b>50,885</b>	<b>59,476</b>	<b>36,961</b>	<b>59,942</b>	<b>35,886</b>	<b>61,145</b>	<b>35,762</b>
Baltimore City	67,113	61,736	64,278	50,885	59,476	36,961	59,942	35,886	61,145	35,762
<b>STATE</b>	<b>270,765</b>	<b>245,806</b>	<b>270,622</b>	<b>237,558</b>	<b>262,322</b>	<b>219,463</b>	<b>268,399</b>	<b>220,527</b>	<b>270,602</b>	<b>224,596</b>

**TABLE CC-3**  
**COMPARATIVE TABLE ON FILINGS**  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS**  
**FISCAL 1996—FISCAL 1997**

	CIVIL			CRIMINAL			JUVENILE			TOTAL		
	1995-96	1996-97	% Change	1995-96	1996-97	% Change	1995-96	1996-97	% Change	1995-96	1996-97	% Change
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>												
Dorchester	1,121	1,023	-8.7	632	632	0.0	175	226	29.1	1,928	1,881	-2.4
Somerset	1,441	1,449	0.6	535	540	0.9	199	325	63.3	2,175	2,314	6.4
Wicomico	2,371	2,638	11.3	1,808	1,922	6.3	353	375	6.2	4,532	4,935	8.9
Worcester	1,856	1,911	2.9	1,197	1,177	-1.7	316	297	-6.0	3,369	3,385	0.5
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>												
Caroline	1,312	945	-28.0	203	214	5.4	163	203	24.5	1,678	1,362	-18.8
Cecil	2,767	2,668	-3.6	1,491	1,503	0.8	724	742	2.5	4,982	4,913	-1.4
Kent	1,157	1,282	10.8	188	192	2.1	87	74	-14.9	1,432	1,548	8.1
Queen Anne's	1,149	1,294	12.6	213	183	-14.1	324	242	-25.3	1,686	1,719	2.0
Talbot	1,108	1,119	1.0	330	390	18.2	184	280	52.2	1,622	1,789	10.3
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>												
Baltimore	15,574	15,429	-0.9	7,789	7,571	-2.8	4,589	4,800	4.6	27,952	27,800	-0.5
Harford	3,991	4,601	15.3	2,101	2,236	6.4	851	854	0.4	6,943	7,691	10.7
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>												
Allegany	2,297	2,428	5.7	617	694	12.5	316	330	4.4	3,230	3,452	6.9
Garrett	842	751	-10.8	193	149	-22.8	133	201	51.1	1,168	1,101	-5.7
Washington	4,184	4,247	1.5	1,890	1,976	4.6	791	941	19.0	6,865	7,164	4.1
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>												
Anne Arundel	15,010	13,033	-13.2	4,917	4,419	-10.1	3,735	3,733	-0.1	23,662	21,185	-10.5
Carroll	3,320	3,147	-5.2	1,953	1,756	-10.1	664	664	0.0	5,937	5,567	-6.2
Howard	4,192	4,688	11.8	3,070	2,504	-18.4	1,285	1,148	-10.7	8,547	8,340	-2.4
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>												
Frederick	3,361	3,571	6.3	1,522	1,465	-3.8	866	1,335	54.6	5,749	6,371	10.8
Montgomery*	22,711	24,451	7.7	5,293	4,516	-14.7	6,915	6,781	-1.9	34,919	35,748	2.4
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>												
Calvert	2,819	2,928	3.9	879	947	7.7	752	723	-3.9	4,450	4,598	3.3
Charles	4,584	4,910	7.1	1,502	1,535	2.2	816	895	9.7	6,902	7,340	6.4
Prince George's	29,293	28,930	-1.2	8,851	8,907	0.6	5,880	6,324	7.6	44,024	44,161	0.3
St. Mary's	3,337	3,579	7.3	843	908	7.7	525	606	15.4	4,705	5,093	8.3
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>												
Baltimore City	27,946	26,877	-3.8	21,736	22,785	4.8	10,260	11,483	11.9	59,942	61,145	2.0
<b>STATE</b>	<b>157,743</b>	<b>157,899</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>69,753</b>	<b>69,121</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>40,903</b>	<b>43,582</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>268,399</b>	<b>270,602</b>	<b>0.8</b>

\* Includes juvenile cases processed at the District Court level.

jurisdictions were decreases in both indictment and information and jury trial prayer terminations. Montgomery County reported a 9.3 percent decrease in indictment and information terminations (i.e., from 2,517 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 2,283 terminations during Fiscal Year 1997) and a 20.9 percent decline in the number of jury trial prayers terminated, from 1,644 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 1,300 terminations. Likewise, indictment and information terminations decreased by 10 percent in Anne Arundel County, while jury trial prayer terminations decreased by 13 percent. There were 3,583 indictment and information cases terminated by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1996, compared to the Fiscal Year 1997 level of 3,225 terminations. Jury trial prayer terminations decreased from 771 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 671 terminations (Table CC-9).

There were 35,810 juvenile cases terminated during Fiscal Year 1997, representing an increase of 3.5 percent over the 34,609 terminations reported in Fiscal Year 1996. Juvenile case terminations represented nearly 16 percent of all cases terminated during Fiscal Year 1997. Contributing to the overall increase in juvenile case terminations were increases in C.I.N.A. and delinquency terminations. Over the past two years, C.I.N.A. terminations have increased by 1.8 percent, from 8,141 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 8,284 during Fiscal Year 1997. Delinquency terminations have increased by 3.6 percent since Fiscal Year 1996, from 26,220, to the present level of 27,163 terminations. The five larger jurisdictions accounted for approximately 72 percent of all the juvenile case terminations. Montgomery County reported the greatest number of terminations with 6,582, an increase of nearly 1 percent over the 6,524 reported during Fiscal Year 1996. Baltimore City followed with 6,020 terminations, an increase

of 10.3 percent over the 5,456 terminations reported during the previous year. There were 6,005 juvenile cases terminated by Prince George's County during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 6.3 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 5,648 terminations. Baltimore County reported a 12 percent decrease in juvenile terminations, from 4,077 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the present level of 3,588 terminations. Anne Arundel County also experienced a decrease in juvenile terminations, from 3,679 during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 3,574 terminations, a decrease of nearly 3 percent.

### **Court Trials, Jury Trials and Hearings**

The circuit courts conducted 273,768 judicial proceedings during Fiscal Year 1997. That figure compares with the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 273,850 judicial proceedings. During the fiscal year, there were 262,925 hearings held. Included in that figure were 88,201 civil hearings, 81,523 juvenile hearings and 93,201 criminal hearings. The circuit courts also conducted 7,602 court trials and 3,241 jury trials. Approximately 63 percent (i.e., 4,787) of all court trials conducted during Fiscal Year 1997 involved civil matters, while 51.3 percent (i.e., 1,662) of all jury trials addressed civil matters (Table CC-10).

### **Elapsed Time of Case Dispositions**

The circuit courts averaged 202 days from the filing to disposition of a civil case during Fiscal Year 1997. During that same time period, an average time of 117 days was expended from the filing to disposition of a criminal case, while a juvenile case averaged 53 days from filing to time of disposition. In comparison, an average of 180 days was expended from the filing to disposition of a civil case during Fiscal Year 1996, while a criminal case averaged

116 days and a juvenile case averaged 59 days during the same time period. Inactive cases were excluded in calculating the above averages (Table CC-13).

### **Pending**

At the end of Fiscal Year 1997, the circuit courts had pending before them 375,313 cases, representing an increase of 11.8 percent over the 335,794 cases pending at the close of Fiscal Year 1996. Cases involving civil matters comprised 69.1 percent of all pending cases at the close of Fiscal Year 1997. There were 259,130 civil cases pending, an increase of 11.5 percent over the previous year's total of 232,338 cases. The five largest jurisdictions contributed 218,829 cases or 84.4 percent of the pending civil caseload. Baltimore City reported the greatest number of pending civil cases with 116,566, an increase of 18.5 percent over the 98,567 cases reported at the end of Fiscal Year 1996. Prince George's and Baltimore Counties followed with 34,736 and 34,030 pending civil cases, respectively. The 34,736 pending civil cases reported by Prince George's County represent a decrease of 3.4 percent from the 35,973 cases reported during Fiscal Year 1996, while a 12.1 percent increase over the previous year's total of 30,368 cases occurred in Baltimore County. Anne Arundel reported 23,539 pending civil cases at the end of Fiscal Year 1997. That figure represents an increase of 5.5 percent over the 22,303 cases pending at the end of the previous fiscal year. Montgomery County reported 9,958 pending civil cases, an increase of 3.5 percent over the 9,625 cases reported at the end of Fiscal Year 1996. Criminal cases pending also increased over the two-year period. There were 67,289 criminal cases pending at the close of Fiscal Year 1997, representing an increase of 4.9 percent over the 64,154 cases pending at the close of the previous fiscal year. Pending criminal cases ac-

counted for approximately 17.9 percent of the Fiscal Year 1997 pending caseload. The five larger jurisdictions contributed a combined total of 52,728 cases or 78.4 percent of all pending criminal cases. That figure represents an increase of 5.2 percent over the 50,115 criminal cases pending at the end of Fiscal Year 1996. Baltimore City reported the greatest number with 30,865, an increase of 7 percent over the previous year's total of 28,844 pending criminal cases. Prince George's County followed with 8,612 pending criminal cases, an increase of 14.8 percent over the 7,505 cases reported at the close of Fiscal Year 1996. An increase of 2 percent was noted by Baltimore County, from 5,514 criminal cases pending at the end of Fiscal Year 1996, to the present level of 5,626 cases. Anne Arundel and Montgomery Counties both reported decreases over the two-year period. Anne Arundel County reported 4,678 pending criminal cases at the end of Fiscal Year 1997, a 5.2 percent decrease from the 4,936 cases

reported during the previous year. Montgomery County experienced a decrease of 11.1 percent, from 3,316 criminal cases pending at the end of Fiscal Year 1996, to the present level of 2,947 cases. The number of juvenile cases pending at the close of the fiscal year increased as well. There were 48,894 juvenile cases pending at the end of Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 24.4 percent over the 39,302 cases pending at the end of the previous year. That figure represents 13 percent of the total pending caseload for Fiscal Year 1997. The five larger jurisdictions reported a combined total of 45,824 cases, accounting for 93.7 percent of the pending juvenile caseload. Baltimore City reported the greatest number with 34,255, an increase of 31.5 percent over the 26,052 cases pending at the end of Fiscal Year 1996. An increase of 30.1 percent occurred in Baltimore County, from 3,663 cases last year, to the Fiscal Year 1997 level of 4,766 pending juvenile cases. Montgomery County followed with 4,023 juvenile cases

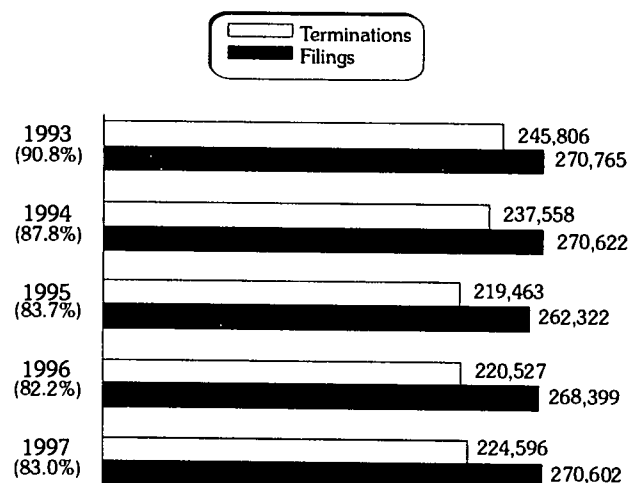
pending, an increase of 5.6 over the 3,810 cases pending at the end of Fiscal Year 1996. There were 2,147 cases pending in Prince George's County at the close of Fiscal Year 1997, compared to 2,001 cases during the previous fiscal year, an increase of 7.3 percent. Anne Arundel County was the only larger jurisdiction to note a decrease in the number of pending juvenile cases. There were 633 juvenile cases pending in the aforementioned jurisdiction at the end of Fiscal Year 1997. That figure represents a decrease of 27.3 percent from the 871 cases pending at the end of Fiscal Year 1996.

### Trends

Over the last five years, the circuit courts have experienced a slight decrease in filing activity. There were 270,602 total filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997, a decrease of less than 1 percent or 163 cases from the 270,765 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1993. This slight decrease can be attributed to a reduction in

TABLE CC-4

### TERMINATIONS AS A PERCENTAGE OF FILINGS IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS



\* The percentage of filings that are terminated.

both civil and criminal filings, mitigated by a rise in juvenile case filings.

Civil filings decreased by approximately 0.2 percent over the last five years, from 158,185 during Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 157,899 filings. This rather insignificant decrease resulted from fluctuating filing activity within the various civil categories. Motor tort filings decreased during the five-year period, from 10,793 during Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 8,830 filings, a decrease of 18.2 percent. Conversely, "other" tort filings increased by 59.4 percent during the same time period, from 4,196, to the Fiscal Year 1997 total of 6,687 filings. Other categorical fluctuations included a 43.5 percent decrease in "other" law filings (i.e., from 11,817 during Fiscal Year 1993, to 6,682 filings during Fiscal Year 1997) and a 14.2 percent rise in domestic-related case filings. There were 89,522 domestic-related filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997, compared to the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 78,393 filings.

Parallel to the slight decrease in civil filings was a 1 percent reduction in criminal case filings reported dur-

ing the last five years. There were 69,836 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 1993. That figure compares to 69,121 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997. During the five-year period, increases were noted in both indictment and information filings and "other" appeals. There were 37,864 indictment and information filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 4.1 percent over the 36,357 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1993. Likewise, "other" appeals from the District Court increased by 13 percent, from 2,437 during Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 2,755 filings. During the same time period, a 10.6 percent reduction in jury trial prayers was reported. There were 24,284 jury trial prayers reported during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to 21,711 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997. During the same time period, motor vehicle appeals from the District Court decreased 1.5 percent, from 1,955 during Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 1,925 filings.

Juvenile filings increased approximately 2 percent during the last five years, from 42,744 during Fiscal Year 1993, to the Fiscal Year 1997

level of 43,582 filings. During the five-year period, C.I.N.A. filings increased by 17.1 percent, from 9,512 filings during Fiscal Year 1993, to the present level of 11,142 filings. In contrast, delinquency filings decreased by 3.1 percent. There were 32,648 delinquency cases filed during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to 31,630 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997. Decreasing 35.5 percent over the five-year time period were C.I.N.S. filings. There were 487 filings during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to 314 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997.

While overall filings have decreased slightly over the last five years, the complexity of the caseload placed before the circuit courts for expedient and fair adjudication has increased. A rise in domestic-related and tort filings during the five-year period has continued to strain the courts as jurists make every effort to address the sensitive nature and far-reaching implications of the issues paramount to the aforementioned case types. Additionally, as indicated by the rise in indictment and information case filings, criminal activity also has been on the increase.

**TABLE CC-5**  
**JURY TRIAL PRAYERS**

	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
Baltimore City*	8,698	8,714	7,905	4,061	3,140	3,450	4,317	4,293	3,752	3,255	3,841
Anne Arundel County	1,066	1,343	2,037	2,045	2,383	2,599	1,274	827	746	692	596
Baltimore County	4,348	4,683	5,499	5,691	4,002	2,952	2,409	2,835	2,356	2,354	2,143
Montgomery County	3,560	3,955	3,709	2,210	1,810	2,493	2,093	1,464	1,560	1,713	1,223
Prince George's County	4,003	3,111	2,937	3,314	2,955	3,297	2,757	2,836	2,652	3,628	2,518
All Other Counties	6,569	7,978	9,399	10,562	10,814	11,471	11,434	11,452	11,883	11,575	11,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,244</b>	<b>29,784</b>	<b>31,426</b>	<b>27,883</b>	<b>25,104</b>	<b>26,262</b>	<b>22,284</b>	<b>23,707</b>	<b>22,949</b>	<b>23,217</b>	<b>21,711</b>

\*Based on number of defendants provided by the Criminal Assignment Office of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.



**TABLE CC-6**  
**TOTAL CASES FILED, TERMINATED, AND PENDING**  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS**

**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	PENDING	Filed	Terminated	PENDING
	Beginning of Year			End of Year
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>6,149</b>	<b>12,515</b>	<b>11,187</b>	<b>7,477</b>
Dorchester	1,056	1,881	1,706	1,231
Somerset	1,001	2,314	2,288	1,027
Wicomico	2,316	4,935	4,129	3,122
Worcester	1,776	3,385	3,064	2,097
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>5,655</b>	<b>11,331</b>	<b>10,296</b>	<b>6,690</b>
Caroline	904	1,362	1,155	1,111
Cecil	3,220	4,913	4,263	3,870
Kent	470	1,548	1,409	609
Queen Anne's	500	1,719	1,793	426
Talbot	561	1,789	1,676	674
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>46,955</b>	<b>35,491</b>	<b>28,819</b>	<b>53,627</b>
Baltimore	39,160	27,800	22,538	44,422
Harford	7,795	7,691	6,281	9,205
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>6,572</b>	<b>11,717</b>	<b>11,173</b>	<b>7,116</b>
Allegany	2,076	3,452	3,894	1,634
Garrett	581	1,101	995	687
Washington	3,915	7,164	6,284	4,795
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>37,646</b>	<b>35,092</b>	<b>32,820</b>	<b>39,918</b>
Anne Arundel	27,479	21,185	19,814	28,850
Carroll	4,443	5,567	5,674	4,336
Howard	5,724	8,340	7,332	6,732
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>19,753</b>	<b>42,119</b>	<b>38,603</b>	<b>23,269</b>
Frederick	5,121	6,371	5,151	6,341
Montgomery	14,632	35,748	33,452	16,928
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>50,274</b>	<b>61,192</b>	<b>55,936</b>	<b>55,530</b>
Calvert	1,281	4,598	4,125	1,754
Charles	4,547	7,340	6,005	5,882
Prince George's	42,221	44,161	40,887	45,495
St. Mary's	2,225	5,093	4,919	2,399
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>156,303</b>	<b>61,145</b>	<b>35,772</b>	<b>181,676</b>
Baltimore City	156,303	61,145	35,772	181,676
<b>STATE</b>	<b>329,307</b>	<b>270,602</b>	<b>224,596</b>	<b>375,313</b>

NOTE: The beginning inventory figures have been adjusted to reflect additions and deletions of cases resulting from routine maintenance and the removal of old cases that were actually terminated in a prior fiscal year. This adjustment is also reflected in Tables CC-18, CC-23, and CC-28.

**TABLE CC-7**  
**PERCENTAGES OF ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED**  
**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	CIVIL		CRIMINAL		JUVENILE		TOTAL (100%)
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>7,021</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>4,271</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>12,515</b>
Dorchester	1,023	54.4	632	33.6	226	12.0	1,881
Somerset	1,449	62.6	540	23.3	325	14.0	2,314
Wicomico	2,638	53.5	1,922	38.9	375	7.6	4,935
Worcester	1,911	56.5	1,177	34.8	297	8.8	3,385
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>7,308</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>11,331</b>
Caroline	945	69.4	214	15.7	203	14.9	1,362
Cecil	2,668	54.3	1,503	30.6	742	15.1	4,913
Kent	1,282	82.8	192	12.4	74	4.8	1,548
Queen Anne's	1,294	75.3	183	10.6	242	14.1	1,719
Talbot	1,119	62.5	390	21.8	280	15.7	1,789
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>20,030</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>9,807</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>5,654</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>35,491</b>
Baltimore	15,429	55.5	7,571	27.2	4,800	17.3	27,800
Harford	4,601	59.8	2,236	29.1	854	11.1	7,691
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>7,426</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>2,819</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>1,472</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>11,717</b>
Allegany	2,428	70.3	694	20.1	330	9.6	3,452
Garrett	751	68.2	149	13.5	201	18.3	1,101
Washington	4,247	59.3	1,976	27.6	941	13.1	7,164
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>20,868</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>8,679</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>5,545</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>35,092</b>
Anne Arundel	13,033	61.5	4,419	20.9	3,733	17.6	21,185
Carroll	3,147	56.5	1,756	31.5	664	11.9	5,567
Howard	4,688	56.2	2,504	30.0	1,148	13.8	8,340
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>28,022</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>5,981</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>8,116</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>42,119</b>
Frederick	3,571	56.1	1,465	23.0	1,335	21.0	6,371
Montgomery*	24,451	68.4	4,516	13.9	6,781	20.9	35,748
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>40,347</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>12,296</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>8,548</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>61,192</b>
Calvert	2,928	63.7	947	20.6	723	15.7	4,598
Charles	4,910	66.9	1,535	20.9	895	12.2	7,340
Prince George's	28,930	65.5	8,907	20.2	6,324	14.3	44,161
St. Mary's	3,579	70.3	908	17.8	606	11.9	5,093
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>26,871</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>22,785</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>11,483</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>61,145</b>
Baltimore City	26,871	43.9	22,785	37.3	11,483	18.8	61,145
<b>STATE</b>	<b>157,899</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>69,121</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>43,582</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>270,602</b>

\* Juvenile cases heard at District Court level.

**TABLE CC-8**  
**CATEGORIES OF FILINGS**  
**ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED**  
**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

TABLE CC-8																									
CATEGORIES OF FILINGS																									
ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED																									
JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997																									
FISCAL 1997																									
	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester	Caroline	Cecil	Kent	Queen Anne's	Talbot	Baltimore	Harford	Allegany	Garrett	Washington	Anne Arundel	Carroll	Howard	Frederick	Montgomery	Calvert	Charles	Prince George's	St. Mary's	Baltimore City	TOTAL
TOTAL CIVIL	1,023	1,449	2,638	1,911	945	2,668	1,282	1,294	1,119	15,429	4,601	2,428	751	4,247	13,033	3,147	4,688	3,571	24,451	2,928	4,910	28,930	3,579	26,877	157,899
MOTOR TORT	23	11	94	60	13	108	11	36	34	1,300	245	72	18	91	662	113	232	154	1,264	65	186	1,952	91	1,995	8,830
OTHER TORT	12	6	35	21	18	21	8	4	12	500	42	17	19	44	150	22	122	71	757	15	80	826	11	3,874	6,687
CONTRACT	14	11	51	74	7	47	13	17	45	1,049	133	13	20	71	595	78	412	146	1,719	41	69	1,038	43	557	6,263
CONDEMNATION	10	0	15	0	0	1	0	0	3	14	1	0	1	1	1	4	0	5	2	24	1	10	0	10	102
CONTESTED CONFESSION	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	1	109	6	0	0	4	2	0	17	2	315	1	12	2	0	140	621
JUDGMENT	22	75	56	71	38	173	10	2	1	134	118	148	23	22	38	0	22	150	4,571	40	43	621	276	28	6,682
APPEALS																									
District Court - On Record	7	0	1	8	2	9	4	5	13	68	7	2	2	14	33	12	10	14	73	6	12	66	2	67	437
District Court - De Novo	2	1	19	11	1	18	2	6	4	8	164	17	4	28	59	40	38	32	217	9	34	210	3	142	1,081
Administrative Agency	16	39	55	47	0	46	18	21	25	581	154	113	17	161	503	86	138	102	428	48	41	466	50	500	3,655
UNREPORTED LAW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DIVORCE/NULLITY	212	158	591	265	203	466	216	260	227	3,765	1,142	622	148	863	3,472	759	1,304	1,072	5,273	642	995	5,525	797	3,097	32,074
OTHER DOMESTIC	208	373	316	268	213	681	269	196	202	2,035	929	184	216	1,219	1,010	657	717	648	2,104	495	880	5,061	620	642	20,143
RELATIONS																									
ADOPTION/GUARDIANSHIP	20	5	60	24	15	44	6	21	21	375	89	34	23	91	512	122	98	112	1,551	24	47	203	67	395	3,959
PATERNITY	354	617	890	483	288	622	610	358	332	1,120	553	559	118	1,020	1,587	177	642	548	1,625	1,023	1,635	6,975	1,385	6,355	29,877
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	20	67	32	22	45	79	32	17	37	397	286	15	28	31	136	261	155	37	411	112	266	164	73	746	3,469
OTHER GENERAL	96	81	402	545	100	338	80	346	156	3,771	863	627	104	569	4,157	812	739	465	4,063	400	596	5,794	128	8,315	33,547
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	4	4	19	10	2	15	3	3	2	47	17	5	10	18	113	8	37	16	56	6	14	17	33	13	472
TOTAL JUVENILE	226	325	375	297	203	742	74	242	280	4,800	854	330	201	941	3,733	664	1,148	1,335	6,781	723	895	6,324	606	11,483	43,582
DELINQUENCY	133	155	300	220	141	305	35	200	188	4,247	563	224	94	488	3,153	537	949	1,056	5,202	548	771	4,213	456	7,452	31,630
ADULT	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	8	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	20
CHILD IN NEED OF	0	0	2	3	7	0	3	5	20	1	2	21	11	16	1	12	38	69	13	6	1	5	4	74	314
SUPERVISION																									
CHILD IN NEED OF	93	164	61	66	53	426	29	36	71	532	284	85	84	419	573	102	161	205	1,561	156	113	2,021	133	3,714	11,142
ASSISTANCE																									
GUARDIANSHIP	0	6	11	5	0	7	0	0	0	13	2	0	9	14	4	3	0	2	0	0	4	61	11	242	394
ADOPTION	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	0	0	1	3	0	4	0	1	1	7	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	5	24	1	59
TOTAL CRIMINAL	632	540	1,922	1,177	214	1,503	192	183	390	7,571	2,236	694	149	1,976	4,419	1,756	2,504	1,465	4,516	947	1,535	8,907	908	22,785	69,121
INDICTMENT INFORMATION	275	177	734	282	100	281	70	105	208	4,140	792	250	53	633	3,268	725	983	458	2,399	515	820	5,212	266	15,118	37,864
APPEALS FROM DISTRICT COURT																									
Motor Vehicle	12	12	17	31	5	31	6	13	14	418	84	9	6	53	207	48	185	98	316	14	26	100	15	205	1,925
Other	23	12	48	23	13	10	4	4	18	777	59	18	11	71	203	13	59	41	481	13	15	383	20	436	2,755
JURY TRIAL PRAYED MOTOR	41	105	274	364	27	611	27	13	44	383	474	105	43	472	189	284	450	415	330	166	236	892	156	443	6,523
JURY TRIAL PRAYED OTHER	219	231	792	474	49	503	70	35	80	1,760	754	309	43	683	407	597	793	450	893	224	359	1,626	439	6,003	17,793
NON SUPPORT	0	0	0	0	0	20	1	0	0	57	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	86
POST CONVICTION	5	0	33	0	13	19	14	12	0	0	48	0	5	32	19	0	31	0	85	4	45	547	0	460	1,372
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	57	3	24	3	7	28	0	1	26	36	25	2	9	32	122	89	3	3	11	10	34	147	11	120	803
STATE	1,881	2,314	4,935	3,385	1,362	4,913	1,548	1,719	1,789	27,800	7,691	3,452	1,101	7,164	21,185	5,567	8,340	6,371	35,748	4,598	7,340	44,161	5,093	61,145	270,402

NOTE: See note on Table CC-17.

NOTE: See note on Table CC-17.

TABLE CC-9

**CATEGORIES OF TERMINATIONS  
TERMINATIONS OF ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED  
JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997  
FISCAL 1997**

	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester	Caroline	Cecil	Kent	Queen Anne's	Talbot	Baltimore	Harford	Allegany	Garrett	Washington	Anne Arundel	Carroll	Howard	Frederick	Montgomery	Calvert	Charles	Prince George's	St. Mary's	Baltimore City	TOTAL
TOTAL CIVIL	970	1,433	2,036	1,740	789	2,143	1,172	1,328	1,073	11,678	3,662	2,904	688	3,638	11,895	3,198	3,829	2,239	22,498	2,634	3,618	27,063	3,418	9,053	124,699
MOTOR TORT	29	15	78	53	9	85	18	49	38	1,171	212	78	16	93	610	127	219	117	1,309	69	125	2,192	106	808	7,626
OTHER TORT	13	1	16	21	7	12	13	9	7	436	33	26	15	50	134	27	118	64	715	24	32	719	4	388	2,884
CONTRACT	9	8	46	72	9	16	13	21	41	753	82	17	17	59	572	52	328	117	1,583	20	47	981	45	180	5,088
CONDEMNATION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	1	0	1	0	8	1	2	4	37	1	0	3	0	16	92
CONTESTED CONFESSED JUDGMENT	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	42	4	0	0	3	1	2	3	1	294	3	1	10	0	19	394
OTHER LAW	20	76	46	32	12	134	12	0	1	100	110	159	17	20	164	2	6	87	4,370	46	14	571	242	20	6,261
APPEALS	10	0	1	14	2	7	3	1	10	61	6	5	3	13	43	10	16	7	83	7	7	58	6	49	422
District Court-on Record	4	0	16	8	2	16	1	10	9	163	14	23	9	24	82	35	39	23	266	10	22	222	5	108	1,111
District Court-de Novo	13	57	41	77	7	49	25	17	23	663	139	114	22	154	663	111	166	69	471	41	35	507	95	351	3,910
Administrative Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNREPORTED LAW	233	165	507	252	173	399	200	262	207	3,081	898	758	145	758	3,391	790	1,130	887	5,039	557	797	5,728	734	523	27,614
DIVORCE/NULLITY	194	358	233	221	183	564	250	209	192	1,392	602	181	211	1,004	1,025	645	622	355	1,763	434	685	4,918	584	187	17,012
OTHER DOMESTIC RELATIONS	28	7	51	28	33	38	15	15	26	228	63	45	25	89	578	128	76	101	1,324	24	35	249	62	253	3,521
ADOPTION/GUARDIANSHIP	296	598	720	513	240	529	536	388	337	876	664	661	116	814	1,168	221	391	17	1,235	980	1,179	6,526	1,333	4,450	24,788
PATERNITY	17	65	31	17	26	53	29	19	37	360	289	13	14	36	116	266	145	12	360	115	238	165	74	649	3,146
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	101	81	242	429	86	240	57	326	143	2,333	543	822	73	516	3,340	778	562	376	3,644	302	396	4,212	127	1,052	20,781
OTHER GENERAL	0	2	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	5	0	0	3	6	5	1	5	2	1	0	49
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	213	317	317	288	207	773	70	259	267	3,588	756	318	171	852	3,574	654	1,076	1,301	6,582	654	838	6,005	710	6,020	35,810
TOTAL JUVENILE	126	156	254	223	145	344	38	216	185	3,158	489	213	80	412	3,018	520	879	1,023	5,156	498	733	3,951	537	4,809	27,163
DELINQUENCY	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	15	0	11	3	1	4	1	0	31
ADULT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHILD IN NEED OF SUPERVISION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE	87	161	59	60	53	428	24	35	61	426	265	85	74	419	552	107	158	195	1,410	143	100	2,020	166	1,196	8,284
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GUARDIANSHIP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ADOPTION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL CRIMINAL	523	538	1,776	1,036	159	1,347	167	206	336	7,272	1,863	672	136	1,794	4,345	1,822	2,427	1,611	4,372	837	1,549	7,819	791	20,689	64,087
INDICTMENT INFORMATION	237	180	735	280	74	311	61	127	190	3,971	724	253	43	581	3,225	738	900	533	2,283	467	833	4,779	239	13,691	35,455
APPEALS FROM DISTRICT COURT	11	13	15	24	5	13	6	17	15	403	71	13	5	55	218	59	184	97	316	13	19	103	13	211	1,899
Motor Vehicle	26	9	53	19	6	11	5	7	14	770	38	14	9	71	207	16	49	38	452	11	16	326	19	433	2,619
Other	39	96	250	309	30	553	27	19	46	364	414	102	21	420	224	325	443	408	362	140	261	884	136	442	6,315
JURY TRIAL PRAYED MOTOR	208	238	712	404	43	448	59	33	71	1,721	607	290	52	640	447	684	839	535	938	201	400	1,590	384	5,717	17,261
JURY TRIAL PRAYED OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NON SUPPORT	1	0	11	0	0	1	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	27	15	0	9	0	19	3	15	130	0	146	406
POST CONVICTION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNREPORTED CATEGORY	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STATE	1,706	2,288	4,129	3,064	1,155	4,263	1,409	1,793	1,676	22,538	6,281	3,894	995	6,284	19,814	5,674	7,332	5,151	33,452	4,125	6,005	40,887	4,919	35,762	224,596

NOTE: See note on Table CC-17.

## TABLE CC-10

NOTE: Information on court and jury trials in Baltimore City was derived from a linear regression projection using statistics from the last five years for jury trials and the last five years for court trials. Also, some differences may exist in the number of court trials for counts of similar size due to the recording of these events under incorrect headings. A reporting anomaly has occurred in which the Clerk's Office for the Circuit Court for Carroll County initiates all new criminal filings as involving a court trial; however, the Clerk's Office does not amend the case if it does not result in a court trial.

NOTE: Information on court and jury trials in Baltimore City was derived from a linear regression projection using statistics from the last five years for jury trials and the last five years for court trials. Also, some differences may exist in the number of court trials for counts of similar size due to the recording of these events under incorrect headings. A reporting anomaly has occurred in which the Clerk's Office for the Circuit Court for Carroll County initiates all new criminal filings as involving a court trial; however, the Clerk's Office does not amend the case if it does not result in a court trial.

**TABLE CC-11**  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES FILED IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS**  
**FISCAL YEAR 1997**

	Ex Parte			Protective Order		
	Hearings	Orders Granted	Percent Granted	Hearings	Orders Granted	Percent Granted
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>						
Dorchester	19	16	84.21	16	8	50.00
Somerset	66	46	69.70	42	23	54.76
Wicomico	26	14	53.85	14	8	57.14
Worcester	17	9	52.94	9	5	55.56
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>						
Caroline	42	38	90.48	39	25	64.10
Cecil	85	58	68.24	58	23	39.66
Kent	20	16	80.00	16	9	56.25
Queen Anne's	12	7	58.33	9	8	88.89
Talbot	29	22	75.86	24	16	66.67
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>						
Baltimore	313	169	53.99	170	91	53.53
Harford	259	197	76.06	230	141	61.30
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>						
Allegany	11	11	100.00	12	8	66.67
Garrett	27	24	88.89	21	18	85.71
Washington	14	11	78.57	17	12	70.59
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>						
Anne Arundel	89	63	70.79	57	37	64.91
Carroll	217	186	85.71	199	122	61.31
Howard	129	98	75.97	83	44	53.01
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>						
Frederick	4	2	50.00	2	2	100.00
Montgomery	360	275	76.39	280	166	59.29
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>						
Calvert	98	82	83.67	84	51	60.71
Charles	243	205	84.36	208	145	69.71
Prince George's	73	57	78.08	65	42	64.62
St. Mary's	60	46	76.67	51	32	62.75
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>						
Baltimore City	665	570	85.71	550	286	52.00
<b>STATE</b>	<b>2,878</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>77.21</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>58.60</b>

NOTE: This table represents only those hearings that were held in Fiscal Year 1997.

JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997  
FISCAL 1997

	COUNTY												CITY												TOTAL	
APPEALS FROM DISTRICT COURT AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester	Caroline	Cecil	Kent	Queen Anne's	Talbot	Baltimore	Harford	Allegany	Garrett	Washington	Anne Arundel	Carroll	Howard	Frederick	Montgomery	Calvert	Charles	Prince George's	St. Mary's	Baltimore City		
	2	1	19	11	1	18	2	6	8	164	16	17	4	28	59	40	38	32	217	9	34	210	3	142		
	7	0	1	8	2	9	4	5	13	68	7	2	2	14	33	12	10	14	73	6	12	66	2	67		
	16	39	55	47	0	46	18	21	25	581	154	113	17	161	503	86	138	102	428	48	41	466	50	500		
	25	40	75	66	3	73	24	32	46	813	177	132	23	203	595	138	186	148	718	63	87	742	55	709		
CRIMINAL																										
	12	12	17	31	5	31	6	13	14	418	84	9	6	53	207	48	185	98	316	14	26	100	15	205		
	23	12	48	23	13	10	4	4	18	777	59	18	11	71	203	13	59	41	481	13	15	383	20	436		
	35	24	65	54	18	41	10	17	32	1,195	143	27	17	124	410	61	244	139	797	27	41	483	35	641		
TOTAL	60	64	140	120	21	114	34	49	78	2,008	320	159	40	327	1,005	199	430	287	1,515	90	128	1,225	90	1,350		
PERCENTAGE OF CIRCUIT COURT CASE FILINGS ORIGINATING FROM THE DISTRICT COURT																										
Prayers for Jury Trials and Appeals:																										
County	304	361	1,151	911	97	1,182	113	76	177	3,570	1,394	460	89	1,321	1,098	994	1,535	1,050	2,310	432	682	3,277	635	7,296		
Circuit			2,727				1,645				4,964		1,869			3,627		3,360			5,026			7,296		
Circuit Court Filings:																										
County	1,881	2,314	4,935	3,385	1,362	4,913	1,548	1,719	1,789	27,800	7,691	3,452	1,101	7,164	21,185	5,567	8,340	6,371	35,748	4,598	7,340	44,161	5,093	61,145		
Circuit			12,515				11,331				35,491		11,717			35,092		42,119			61,192			61,145		
Percentage of Circuit Court Filings that are Jury Trial Prayers and Appeals:																										
County	16.2	15.6	23.3	26.9	7.1	24.1	7.3	4.4	9.9	12.8	18.1	13.3	8.0	18.4	5.2	17.9	18.4	16.5	6.5	9.4	9.3	7.4	12.5	11.9		
Circuit			21.8				14.5				14.0		16.0			10.3		8.0			8.2			11.9		

**TABLE CC-13**  
**AVERAGE DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION**  
**FISCAL 1995—1997**

	CIVIL			CRIMINAL			JUVENILE		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>									
Dorchester	206	185	190	133	139	125	59	47	53
Somerset	116	125	115	84	90	98	13	16	19
Wicomico	212	157	140	105	107	101	40	40	45
Worcester	175	164	192	77	83	80	39	45	49
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>									
Caroline	188	186	172	140	154	157	26	15	16
Cecil	163	176	172	167	177	179	73	74	68
Kent	181	171	192	142	131	139	56	56	57
Queen Anne's	175	169	166	133	131	108	52	55	53
Talbot	159	177	173	133	130	118	50	74	36
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>									
Baltimore	179	184	197	82	81	94	65	62	64
Harford	194	162	155	145	137	131	82	90	80
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>									
Allegany	200	237	226	137	164	167	76	66	79
Garrett	161	183	190	121	129	158	46	47	45
Washington	168	161	154	129	124	137	62	56	64
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>									
Anne Arundel	228	227	238	135	135	121	69	69	66
Carroll	192	176	182	128	132	139	74	78	74
Howard	254	235	220	138	144	130	69	74	74
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>									
Frederick	176	170	229	172	161	152	82	86	73
Montgomery	88	114	177	93	94	90	112	98	94
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>									
Calvert	231	224	200	136	122	116	88	100	74
Charles	182	177	181	159	164	153	80	77	75
Prince George's	209	199	225	121	114	127	80	71	67
St. Mary's	193	209	196	158	131	126	77	78	77
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>									
Baltimore City	278	262	272	96	112	110	9	11	11
<b>STATE</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>53</b>

NOTE: A small number of lengthy cases can increase an average, particularly in a jurisdiction with a small caseload. For that reason, civil cases over 721 days old, criminal cases over 360 days old, and juvenile cases over 271 days old have been excluded in the above calculations. Approximately 90 to 95 percent of the cases are disposed of within those time periods.



**TABLE CC-14**  
**POPULATION IN RELATION TO CIRCUIT COURT CASELOAD**

**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	Population*	POPULATION AND CASELOAD PER CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE						CASES FILED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT PER THOUSAND POPULATION			RATIO OF JURY TRIALS TO POPULATION	
		No. of Judges	Population per Judge	Cases Filed Per Judge		Cases Terminated Per Judge		Civil**	Criminal	Total	No. of Jury Trials	Per 1000 Population
				Civil**	Criminal	Civil**	Criminal					
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>												
Dorchester***	29,900	1.1	26,460	1,135	575	1,075	475	42	21	63	46	1.54
Somerset	24,500	1.0	24,500	1,774	540	1,750	538	72	22	94	27	1.10
Wicomico***	79,900	2.9	27,840	1,039	663	811	612	38	24	62	76	0.95
Worcester	42,100	2.0	21,050	1,104	589	1,014	518	52	28	80	45	1.07
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>												
Caroline	29,500	1.0	29,500	1,148	214	996	159	39	7	46	29	0.98
Cecil	80,600	2.0	40,300	1,705	752	1,458	674	42	19	61	93	1.15
Kent	19,000	1.0	19,000	1,356	192	1,242	167	71	10	81	24	1.26
Queen Anne's	38,600	1.0	38,600	1,536	183	1,587	206	40	5	45	22	0.57
Talbot	32,600	1.0	32,600	1,399	390	1,340	336	43	12	55	34	1.04
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>												
Baltimore	720,600	15.0	48,040	1,349	505	1,018	485	28	11	39	236	0.33
Harford	212,900	5.0	42,580	1,091	447	884	373	26	11	37	77	0.36
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>												
Allegany	72,600	2.0	36,300	1,379	347	1,611	336	38	10	48	52	0.72
Garrett	29,500	1.0	29,500	952	149	859	136	32	5	37	26	0.88
Washington	127,800	4.0	31,950	1,297	494	1,123	449	41	15	56	106	0.83
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>												
Anne Arundel	471,500	9.0	52,389	1,863	491	1,719	483	36	9	45	233	0.49
Carroll	146,700	3.0	48,900	1,270	585	1,284	607	26	12	38	52	0.35
Howard	230,400	5.0	46,080	1,167	501	981	485	25	11	36	104	0.45
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>												
Frederick	184,100	4.0	46,025	1,227	366	885	403	27	8	35	64	0.35
Montgomery	824,700	16.0	51,544	1,528	282	1,406	273	30	5	35	459	0.56
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>												
Calvert	69,200	2.0	34,600	1,826	474	1,644	419	53	14	67	47	0.68
Charles	115,300	4.0	28,825	1,451	384	1,114	387	50	13	63	100	0.87
Prince George's	778,900	20.0	38,945	1,763	445	1,653	391	45	11	56	519	0.67
St. Mary's	83,300	2.0	41,650	2,093	454	2,064	396	50	11	61	57	0.68
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>												
Baltimore City****	664,300	28.0	23,725	1,370	813	538	739	58	34	92	2,120	3.19
<b>STATE</b>	<b>5,108,500</b>	<b>134.0</b>	<b>38,123</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>4,738</b>	<b>0.93</b>

\*Population estimate for July 1, 1997, issued by the Maryland Center for Health Statistics.

\*\*Juvenile causes in Montgomery County are not included since they are heard at the District Court level. Juvenile causes in all other counties are included in the civil category.

\*\*\*Dorchester and Wicomico Counties share one judge.

\*\*\*\*The number of jury trials for Baltimore City was based on a linear regression projection using statistics from the last five years.

**TABLE CC -15**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**APPEALS FROM THE DISTRICT COURT AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES**  
**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	District Court	Admin. Agencies	District Court	Admin. Agencies	District Court	Admin. Agencies	District Court	Admin. Agencies	District Court	Admin. Agencies
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>157</b>
Dorchester	43	29	69	27	69	27	58	27	44	16
Somerset	29	45	34	46	21	62	18	67	25	39
Wicomico	62	81	97	75	67	46	120	58	85	55
Worcester	57	23	68	27	70	41	75	36	73	47
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>110</b>
Caroline	28	15	19	14	27	10	24	11	21	0
Cecil	61	65	71	52	57	39	59	41	68	46
Kent	10	8	14	30	10	15	18	25	16	18
Queen Anne's	31	21	38	22	27	22	31	24	28	21
Talbot	40	20	33	22	49	29	38	23	53	25
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>735</b>
Baltimore	1,142	730	1,316	802	1,410	775	1,522	689	1,427	581
Harford	156	170	164	178	153	158	160	161	166	154
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>291</b>
Allegany	47	84	53	84	72	84	64	95	46	113
Garrett	16	36	13	30	17	32	24	20	23	17
Washington	95	112	160	143	129	170	122	145	166	161
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>727</b>
Anne Arundel	508	436	564	512	684	538	652	528	502	503
Carroll	230	125	206	95	181	123	139	104	113	86
Howard	276	129	250	144	236	143	313	163	292	138
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>530</b>
Frederick	140	86	144	83	176	86	158	99	185	102
Montgomery	1,088	457	1,150	507	1,116	459	1,195	456	1,087	428
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>605</b>
Calvert	32	43	32	39	57	36	52	50	42	48
Charles	60	67	83	75	83	62	102	76	87	41
Prince George's	353	464	498	541	678	465	818	525	759	466
St. Mary's	11	40	25	55	31	55	34	52	40	50
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>500</b>
Baltimore City	940	680	1,108	769	1,099	679	940	637	850	500
<b>STATE</b>	<b>5,455</b>	<b>3,966</b>	<b>6,209</b>	<b>4,372</b>	<b>6,519</b>	<b>4,156</b>	<b>6,736</b>	<b>4,112</b>	<b>6,198</b>	<b>3,655</b>

**TABLE CC-16**  
**APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW OF CRIMINAL SENTENCES**  
**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	Filed During Year	Withdrawn by Applicant	TERMINATED, CONSIDERED, AND DISPOSED OF		
			Original Sentence Unchanged	Original Sentence Increased	Original Sentence Decreased
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>					
Dorchester	0	0	0	0	0
Somerset	5	0	5	0	0
Wicomico	0	0	0	0	0
Worcester	0	0	0	0	0
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>					
Caroline	0	0	0	0	0
Cecil	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0
Queen Anne's	5	0	7	0	1
Talbot	0	0	0	0	0
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>					
Baltimore	31	7	16	0	1
Harford	12	2	11	0	0
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>					
Allegany	0	0	2	0	0
Garrett	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	8	2	1	0	0
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>					
Anne Arundel	0	0	0	0	0
Carroll	0	0	0	0	0
Howard	6	1	4	0	0
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>					
Frederick	3	1	3	0	0
Montgomery	0	0	0	0	0
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>					
Calvert	1	0	0	0	0
Charles	28	0	25	0	1
Prince George's	56	7	34	0	1
St. Mary's	0	0	0	0	0
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>					
Baltimore City	35	1	30	0	0
<b>STATE</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

**TABLE CC-17**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**CIVIL CASES**  
**FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS**  
**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED									
	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>6,845</b>	<b>6,583</b>	<b>6,463</b>	<b>6,218</b>	<b>6,275</b>	<b>6,011</b>	<b>6,789</b>	<b>6,131</b>	<b>7,021</b>	<b>6,179</b>
Dorchester	1,398	1,432	1,286	1,244	1,005	929	1,121	1,025	1,023	970
Somerset	1,299	1,130	1,199	1,182	1,303	1,250	1,441	1,387	1,449	1,433
Wicomico	2,502	2,236	2,263	2,045	2,141	2,205	2,371	2,032	2,638	2,036
Worcester	1,646	1,785	1,715	1,747	1,826	1,627	1,856	1,687	1,911	1,740
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>6,596</b>	<b>6,468</b>	<b>6,479</b>	<b>6,315</b>	<b>6,762</b>	<b>6,375</b>	<b>7,493</b>	<b>6,713</b>	<b>7,308</b>	<b>6,505</b>
Caroline	1,087	1,008	964	889	1,157	1,064	1,312	1,178	945	789
Cecil	2,631	2,454	2,513	2,479	2,586	2,298	2,767	2,270	2,668	2,143
Kent	927	998	1,075	1,003	967	975	1,157	1,095	1,282	1,172
Queen Anne's	953	1,000	895	912	959	956	1,149	1,132	1,294	1,328
Talbot	998	1,008	1,032	1,032	1,093	1,082	1,108	1,038	1,119	1,073
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>19,169</b>	<b>17,954</b>	<b>19,318</b>	<b>17,313</b>	<b>18,940</b>	<b>15,919</b>	<b>19,565</b>	<b>14,692</b>	<b>20,030</b>	<b>15,340</b>
Baltimore	15,098	14,693	15,300	14,023	14,957	11,990	15,574	11,717	15,429	11,678
Harford	4,071	3,261	4,018	3,290	3,983	3,929	3,991	2,975	4,601	3,662
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>5,978</b>	<b>5,418</b>	<b>6,808</b>	<b>7,208</b>	<b>6,181</b>	<b>5,585</b>	<b>7,323</b>	<b>6,711</b>	<b>7,426</b>	<b>7,230</b>
Allegany	2,030	1,864	2,412	2,542	1,796	1,724	2,297	2,112	2,428	2,904
Garrett	818	822	893	814	870	778	842	772	751	688
Washington	3,130	2,732	3,503	3,852	3,515	3,083	4,184	3,827	4,247	3,638
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>23,401</b>	<b>23,046</b>	<b>23,962</b>	<b>23,576</b>	<b>21,855</b>	<b>20,486</b>	<b>22,522</b>	<b>21,416</b>	<b>20,868</b>	<b>18,922</b>
Anne Arundel	16,358	17,233	17,205	16,610	14,759	13,172	15,010	14,086	13,033	11,895
Carroll	3,206	2,305	3,146	3,125	3,248	3,143	3,320	3,404	3,147	3,198
Howard	3,837	3,508	3,611	3,841	3,848	4,171	4,192	3,926	4,688	3,829
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>35,055</b>	<b>26,703</b>	<b>33,350</b>	<b>26,106</b>	<b>24,381</b>	<b>20,394</b>	<b>26,072</b>	<b>20,508</b>	<b>28,022</b>	<b>24,737</b>
Frederick	2,944	2,824	3,141	2,761	3,027	2,327	3,361	1,855	3,571	2,239
Montgomery	32,111	23,879	30,209	23,345	21,354	18,067	22,711	18,653	24,451	22,498
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>33,660</b>	<b>29,773</b>	<b>36,114</b>	<b>31,313</b>	<b>38,640</b>	<b>34,078</b>	<b>40,033</b>	<b>33,448</b>	<b>40,347</b>	<b>36,733</b>
Calvert	1,352	1,352	1,320	1,199	2,068	2,157	2,819	2,925	2,928	2,634
Charles	3,608	3,327	3,813	3,371	4,451	3,883	4,584	4,251	4,910	3,618
Prince George's	26,206	23,113	28,549	24,665	29,544	25,630	29,293	22,964	28,930	27,063
St. Mary's	2,494	1,981	2,432	2,078	2,577	2,408	3,337	3,308	3,579	3,418
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>27,481</b>	<b>23,322</b>	<b>24,511</b>	<b>14,074</b>	<b>24,750</b>	<b>8,762</b>	<b>27,946</b>	<b>9,345</b>	<b>26,877</b>	<b>9,053</b>
Baltimore City	27,481	23,322	24,511	14,074	24,750	8,762	27,946	9,345	26,877	9,053
<b>STATE</b>	<b>158,185</b>	<b>139,267</b>	<b>157,005</b>	<b>132,123</b>	<b>147,784</b>	<b>117,610</b>	<b>157,743</b>	<b>118,964</b>	<b>157,899</b>	<b>124,699</b>

NOTE: A civil case is reopened statistically at the time a pleading is filed (i.e. a Motion for Modification of Decree is filed in a divorce case after the final decree has been issued). In a few jurisdictions, a civil case is not reopened statistically until the time a hearing is held on a case with post-judgment activity.

**TABLE CC-18**  
**CIVIL CASES FILED, TERMINATED, AND PENDING**  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS**

**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	<b>PENDING</b>			<b>PENDING</b>
	<b>Beginning of Year</b>			<b>End of Year</b>
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>4,321</b>	<b>7,021</b>	<b>6,179</b>	<b>5,163</b>
Dorchester	732	1,023	970	785
Somerset	737	1,449	1,433	753
Wicomico	1,579	2,638	2,036	2,181
Worcester	1,273	1,911	1,740	1,444
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>3,616</b>	<b>7,308</b>	<b>6,505</b>	<b>4,419</b>
Caroline	786	945	789	942
Cecil	1,723	2,668	2,143	2,248
Kent	327	1,282	1,172	437
Queen Anne's	375	1,294	1,328	341
Talbot	405	1,119	1,073	451
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>35,141</b>	<b>20,030</b>	<b>15,340</b>	<b>39,831</b>
Baltimore	30,279	15,429	11,678	34,030
Harford	4,862	4,601	3,662	5,801
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>4,809</b>	<b>7,426</b>	<b>7,230</b>	<b>5,005</b>
Allegany	1,650	2,428	2,904	1,174
Garrett	470	751	688	533
Washington	2,689	4,247	3,638	3,298
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>28,847</b>	<b>20,868</b>	<b>18,922</b>	<b>30,793</b>
Anne Arundel	22,401	13,033	11,895	23,539
Carroll	2,349	3,147	3,198	2,298
Howard	4,097	4,688	3,829	4,956
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>11,862</b>	<b>28,022</b>	<b>24,737</b>	<b>15,147</b>
Frederick	3,857	3,571	2,239	5,189
Montgomery	8,005	24,451	22,498	9,958
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>38,592</b>	<b>40,347</b>	<b>36,733</b>	<b>42,206</b>
Calvert	918	2,928	2,634	1,212
Charles	3,235	4,910	3,618	4,527
Prince George's	32,869	28,930	27,063	34,736
St. Mary's	1,570	3,579	3,418	1,731
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>98,742</b>	<b>26,877</b>	<b>9,053</b>	<b>116,566</b>
Baltimore City	98,742	26,877	9,053	116,566
<b>STATE</b>	<b>225,930</b>	<b>157,899</b>	<b>124,699</b>	<b>259,130</b>

NOTE: See note on Table CC-6.

**TABLE CC-19**  
**CIVIL CASES**  
**RATIO OF TRIALS TO DISPOSITIONS**  
**JULY 1, 1996-JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	Dispositions	Trials	Percentages	Court Trials	Percentages	Jury Trials	Percentages
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>6,179</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Dorchester	970	24	2.5	15	1.6	9	0.9
Somerset	1,433	6	0.4	4	0.3	2	0.1
Wicomico	2,036	142	7.0	115	5.7	27	1.3
Worcester	1,740	62	3.6	40	2.3	22	1.3
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>6,505</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Caroline	789	20	2.5	12	1.5	8	1.0
Cecil	2,143	1,009	47.1	940	43.9	69	3.2
Kent	1,172	37	3.2	25	2.2	12	1.0
Queen Anne's	1,328	104	7.8	95	7.1	9	0.7
Talbot	1,073	57	5.3	30	2.8	27	2.5
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>15,340</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Baltimore	11,678	378	3.2	236	2.0	142	1.2
Harford	3,662	169	4.6	131	3.6	38	1.0
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>7,230</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Allegany	2,904	210	7.2	181	6.2	29	1.0
Garrett	688	109	15.8	100	14.5	9	1.3
Washington	3,638	170	4.7	117	3.2	53	1.5
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>18,922</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Anne Arundel	11,895	724	6.1	585	4.9	139	1.2
Carroll	3,198	106	3.3	82	2.6	24	0.7
Howard	3,829	187	4.9	117	3.1	70	1.8
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>24,737</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Frederick	2,239	48	2.1	21	0.9	27	1.2
Montgomery	22,498	652	3.4	404	2.1	248	1.3
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>36,729</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Calvert	2,634	64	2.4	33	1.2	31	1.2
Charles	3,618	313	8.7	256	7.1	57	1.6
Prince George's	27,059	375	1.4	169	0.6	206	0.8
St. Mary's	3,418	103	3.0	74	2.2	29	0.8
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>9,053</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Baltimore City	9,053	1,380	15.2	1,005	11.1	375	4.1
<b>STATE</b>	<b>124,699</b>	<b>6,449</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4,787</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>1.3</b>

<b>TABLE CC-20</b>					
<b>FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE</b>					
<b>CIVIL CASES TRIED</b>					
<b>FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997</b>					
	<b>1992-93</b>	<b>1993-94</b>	<b>1994-95</b>	<b>1995-96</b>	<b>1996-97</b>
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>234</b>
Dorchester	131	298	52	55	24
Somerset	12	8	32	10	6
Wicomico	96	69	155	94	142
Worcester	49	77	81	64	62
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>1,227</b>
Caroline	176	129	91	81	20
Cecil	391	502	587	850	1,009
Kent	46	43	60	34	37
Queen Anne's	108	105	121	117	104
Talbot	65	54	58	35	57
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,049</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>547</b>
Baltimore	907	963	617	483	378
Harford	142	128	138	154	169
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>489</b>
Allegany	38	48	77	243	210
Garrett	142	109	40	54	109
Washington	129	251	211	326	170
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>1,017</b>
Anne Arundel	456	1,040	1,027	784	724
Carroll	157	153	116	108	106
Howard	242	175	161	172	187
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>700</b>
Frederick	84	55	72	69	48
Montgomery	923	966	1,021	719	652
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>3,244</b>	<b>1,978</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>855</b>
Calvert	129	302	253	82	64
Charles	512	553	382	472	313
Prince George's	2,557	1,089	334	311	375
St. Mary's	46	34	65	99	103
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>1,675</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>1,380</b>
Baltimore City	1,669	1,630	1,675	1,643	1,380
<b>STATE</b>	<b>9,207</b>	<b>8,781</b>	<b>7,426</b>	<b>7,059</b>	<b>6,449</b>
NOTE: See note on Table CC-10.					

TABLE CC-21

**CIVIL—AVERAGE DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION BY AGE OF CASES AND  
CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES OF DISPOSITIONS WITHIN SPECIFIC TIME PERIODS**

**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997  
FISCAL 1997**

	Number of Cases	AVERAGE IN DAYS FILING TO DISPOSITION		CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL CASES DISPOSED OF LESS THAN:				
		All Cases	Excluding Cases Over 721 Days	61 Days	181 Days	361 Days	721 Days	1081 Days
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>								
Dorchester	664	260	190	29.4	55.9	73.9	92.5	97.4
Somerset	676	141	115	46.9	74.1	89.3	97.0	99.6
Wicomico	1,245	175	140	41.0	69.8	84.8	95.9	98.9
Worcester	1,076	306	192	22.6	57.9	75.8	91.3	98.3
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>								
Caroline	445	419	172	24.0	58.7	76.6	89.4	95.1
Cecil	1,223	233	172	29.5	60.6	78.4	94.4	99.3
Kent	330	230	192	25.5	54.2	77.6	94.5	99.4
Queen Anne's	683	177	166	30.3	64.1	83.7	99.3	99.6
Talbot	576	213	173	33.9	63.2	75.7	94.8	99.1
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>								
Baltimore	10,201	266	197	26.5	53.2	74.0	92.3	97.3
Harford	3,106	256	155	33.3	62.3	78.9	90.5	96.0
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>								
Allegany	1,828	267	226	15.1	47.1	73.4	95.1	98.3
Garrett	458	228	190	24.0	59.4	77.9	95.4	99.1
Washington	2,559	216	154	38.6	64.2	79.4	92.8	97.9
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>								
Anne Arundel	8,347	445	238	18.5	40.9	56.7	81.3	89.6
Carroll	2,439	262	182	31.6	56.9	72.7	90.8	97.0
Howard	2,933	297	220	17.6	47.7	69.8	90.9	96.8
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>								
Frederick	2,000	422	229	18.7	47.1	58.3	81.9	92.0
Montgomery	13,262	212	177	26.3	58.8	80.9	96.2	98.8
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>								
Calvert	1,047	254	200	25.5	54.5	74.5	94.3	98.4
Charles	1,755	250	181	28.0	57.9	77.0	92.7	97.1
Prince George's	18,567	341	225	15.3	45.3	66.8	86.0	96.4
St. Mary's	1,481	259	196	23.8	55.1	74.8	93.3	97.6
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>								
Baltimore City	4,164	577	272	18.1	31.9	45.6	75.2	85.7
<b>STATE</b>	<b>81,065</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>70.6</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>95.9</b>

NOTE: This table does not include reopened cases. In some counties, the number of terminated cases may differ slightly and will be lower than figures appearing on other tables in this report. Also see note on Table CC-13.



**TABLE CC-22**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**CRIMINAL CASES**  
**FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS**  
**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED									
	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>3,492</b>	<b>3,655</b>	<b>3,450</b>	<b>3,620</b>	<b>3,456</b>	<b>4,172</b>	<b>4,001</b>	<b>4,271</b>	<b>3,873</b>
Dorchester	496	503	595	466	633	539	632	583	632	523
Somerset	590	670	615	534	528	617	535	494	540	538
Wicomico	1,227	1,059	1,375	1,239	1,451	1,319	1,808	1,791	1,922	1,776
Worcester	1,304	1,260	1,070	1,211	1,008	981	1,197	1,133	1,177	1,036
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>2,299</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>2,122</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>2,215</b>
Caroline	200	173	186	154	228	185	203	196	214	159
Cecil	1,136	1,018	1,224	1,097	1,454	1,174	1,491	1,306	1,503	1,347
Kent	198	238	263	222	265	240	188	217	192	167
Queen Anne's	192	187	224	196	171	180	213	202	183	206
Talbot	385	364	402	376	417	343	330	343	390	336
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>9,327</b>	<b>8,772</b>	<b>9,595</b>	<b>8,911</b>	<b>9,519</b>	<b>9,113</b>	<b>9,890</b>	<b>9,145</b>	<b>9,807</b>	<b>9,135</b>
Baltimore	6,801	6,575	7,328	7,047	7,225	7,092	7,789	7,415	7,571	7,272
Harford	2,526	2,197	2,267	1,864	2,294	2,021	2,101	1,730	2,236	1,863
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>2,052</b>	<b>2,028</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>2,842</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>2,819</b>	<b>2,602</b>
Allegany	483	465	544	492	619	574	617	583	694	672
Garrett	124	116	102	114	142	92	193	159	149	136
Washington	1,445	1,447	1,955	1,719	2,081	2,230	1,890	1,638	1,976	1,794
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>11,385</b>	<b>11,232</b>	<b>10,097</b>	<b>9,516</b>	<b>10,330</b>	<b>9,566</b>	<b>9,940</b>	<b>10,043</b>	<b>8,679</b>	<b>8,594</b>
Anne Arundel	6,174	6,237	5,439	4,922	5,279	4,911	4,917	4,986	4,419	4,345
Carroll	2,482	2,148	2,240	2,109	2,106	1,900	1,953	2,033	1,756	1,822
Howard	2,729	2,847	2,418	2,485	2,945	2,755	3,070	3,024	2,504	2,427
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>7,784</b>	<b>5,876</b>	<b>6,212</b>	<b>4,639</b>	<b>6,221</b>	<b>4,948</b>	<b>6,815</b>	<b>6,411</b>	<b>5,981</b>	<b>5,983</b>
Frederick	1,570	1,336	1,394	1,194	1,418	1,225	1,522	1,393	1,465	1,611
Montgomery	6,214	4,540	4,818	3,445	4,803	3,723	5,293	5,018	4,516	4,372
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>11,709</b>	<b>10,814</b>	<b>11,294</b>	<b>11,028</b>	<b>11,277</b>	<b>10,742</b>	<b>12,075</b>	<b>11,625</b>	<b>12,297</b>	<b>10,996</b>
Calvert	960	983	953	898	1,092	997	879	899	947	837
Charles	1,214	1,140	1,265	1,227	1,518	1,268	1,502	1,514	1,535	1,549
Prince George's	8,442	7,688	7,906	7,806	7,642	7,432	8,851	8,248	8,907	7,819
St. Mary's	1,093	1,003	1,170	1,097	1,025	1,045	843	964	908	791
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>21,851</b>	<b>22,233</b>	<b>23,174</b>	<b>22,161</b>	<b>22,328</b>	<b>20,137</b>	<b>21,736</b>	<b>21,085</b>	<b>22,785</b>	<b>20,689</b>
Baltimore City	21,851	22,233	23,174	22,161	22,328	20,137	21,736	21,085	22,785	20,689
<b>STATE</b>	<b>69,836</b>	<b>66,427</b>	<b>68,927</b>	<b>64,075</b>	<b>68,672</b>	<b>62,980</b>	<b>69,753</b>	<b>66,954</b>	<b>69,121</b>	<b>64,087</b>

**TABLE CC-23**  
**CRIMINAL CASES FILED, TERMINATED, AND PENDING**  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS**

**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	PENDING	Filed	Terminated	PENDING
	Beginning of Year			End of Year
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>4,271</b>	<b>3,873</b>	<b>1,961</b>
Dorchester	281	632	523	390
Somerset	223	540	538	225
Wicomico	607	1,922	1,776	753
Worcester	452	1,177	1,036	593
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>2,005</b>
Caroline	110	214	159	165
Cecil	1,281	1,503	1,347	1,437
Kent	108	192	167	133
Queen Anne's	93	183	206	70
Talbot	146	390	336	200
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>8,134</b>	<b>9,807</b>	<b>9,135</b>	<b>8,806</b>
Baltimore	5,327	7,571	7,272	5,626
Harford	2,807	2,236	1,863	3,180
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,497</b>	<b>2,819</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>1,714</b>
Allegany	369	694	672	391
Garrett	97	149	136	110
Washington	1,031	1,976	1,794	1,213
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>7,305</b>	<b>8,679</b>	<b>8,594</b>	<b>7,390</b>
Anne Arundel	4,604	4,419	4,345	4,678
Carroll	1,527	1,756	1,822	1,461
Howard	1,174	2,504	2,427	1,251
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>3,898</b>	<b>5,981</b>	<b>5,983</b>	<b>3,896</b>
Frederick	1,095	1,465	1,611	949
Montgomery	2,803	4,516	4,372	2,947
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>9,351</b>	<b>12,297</b>	<b>10,996</b>	<b>10,652</b>
Calvert	281	947	837	391
Charles	1,144	1,535	1,549	1,130
Prince George's	7,524	8,907	7,819	8,612
St. Mary's	402	908	791	519
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>28,769</b>	<b>22,785</b>	<b>20,689</b>	<b>30,865</b>
Baltimore City	28,769	22,785	20,689	30,865
<b>STATE</b>	<b>62,255</b>	<b>69,121</b>	<b>64,087</b>	<b>67,289</b>

NOTE: See note on Table CC-6.

**TABLE CC-24**  
**CRIMINAL CASES**  
**RATIO OF TRIALS TO DISPOSITIONS**

**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	Dispositions	Trials	Percentages	Court Trials	Percentages	Jury Trials	Percentages
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>3,873</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Dorchester	523	49	9.4	12	2.3	37	7.1
Somerset	538	46	8.5	21	3.9	25	4.6
Wicomico	1,776	117	6.6	68	3.8	49	2.8
Worcester	1,036	549	53.0	526	50.8	23	2.2
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Caroline	159	27	17.0	6	3.8	21	13.2
Cecil	1,347	42	3.1	18	1.3	24	1.8
Kent	167	16	9.6	4	2.4	12	7.2
Queen Anne's	206	24	11.6	11	5.3	13	6.3
Talbot	336	10	3.0	3	0.9	7	2.1
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>9,135</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Baltimore	7,272	232	3.2	138	1.9	94	1.3
Harford	1,863	49	2.6	10	0.5	39	2.1
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Allegany	672	38	5.6	15	2.2	23	3.4
Garrett	136	19	14.0	2	1.5	17	12.5
Washington	1,794	75	4.2	22	1.2	53	3.0
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>8,594</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Anne Arundel	4,345	380	8.7	286	6.6	94	2.1
Carroll	1,822	894	49.1	866	47.5	28	1.6
Howard	2,427	272	11.2	238	9.8	34	1.4
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>5,983</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Frederick	1,611	55	3.4	18	1.1	37	2.3
Montgomery	4,372	299	6.8	88	2.0	211	4.8
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>10,996</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Calvert	837	19	2.3	3	0.4	16	1.9
Charles	1,549	50	3.2	7	0.4	43	2.8
Prince George's	7,819	342	4.4	29	0.4	313	4.0
St. Mary's	791	57	7.2	29	3.7	28	3.5
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>20,687</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Baltimore City	20,687	733	3.5	395	1.9	338	1.6
<b>STATE</b>	<b>64,085</b>	<b>4,394</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>2,815</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>2.5</b>

NOTE: See note on Table CC-10.

**TABLE CC-25**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**CRIMINAL CASES TRIED**  
**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>761</b>
Dorchester	95	67	57	154	49
Somerset	82	64	75	55	46
Wicomico	163	162	143	116	117
Worcester	706	635	493	591	549
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>119</b>
Caroline	20	25	22	27	27
Cecil	47	40	37	35	42
Kent	1	5	13	22	16
Queen Anne's	20	25	21	30	24
Talbot	209	256	155	42	10
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>281</b>
Baltimore	501	470	408	340	232
Harford	84	81	58	74	49
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>132</b>
Allegany	43	35	37	45	38
Garrett	19	9	15	16	19
Washington	64	100	73	53	75
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>2,376</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>1,546</b>
Anne Arundel	619	537	415	426	380
Carroll	1,463	1,468	1,256	1,223	894
Howard	294	183	163	127	272
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>354</b>
Frederick	31	32	53	45	55
Montgomery	276	227	246	258	299
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>468</b>
Calvert	51	39	48	18	19
Charles	74	60	57	73	50
Prince George's	188	225	176	240	342
St. Mary's	417	468	365	43	57
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>733</b>
Baltimore City	756	700	720	697	733
<b>STATE</b>	<b>6,223</b>	<b>5,913</b>	<b>5,106</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>4,394</b>

NOTE: See note on Table CC-10.

TABLE CC-26

**CRIMINAL—AVERAGE DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION BY AGE OF CASES  
AND CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES OF DISPOSITIONS WITHIN SPECIFIC TIME PERIODS**

**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997  
FISCAL 1997**

	Number of Cases	AVERAGE IN DAYS FILING TO DISPOSITION		CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CASES DISPOSED OF LESS THAN:				
		All Cases	Excluding Cases Over 360 Days	61 Days	91 Days	121 Days	181 Days	361 Days
FIRST CIRCUIT								
Dorchester	361	139	125	10.8	33.2	56.0	78.4	95.6
Somerset	421	114	98	18.5	55.6	72.7	92.4	98.8
Wicomico	1,278	106	101	18.2	50.2	75.7	90.5	98.7
Worcester	870	81	80	35.5	76.0	87.7	95.1	99.7
SECOND CIRCUIT								
Caroline	109	161	157	3.7	11.0	25.7	67.0	98.2
Cecil	1,062	210	179	4.0	5.7	11.1	50.5	94.4
Kent	98	139	139	8.2	19.4	32.7	76.5	100.0
Queen Anne's	109	742	108	29.4	48.6	54.1	73.4	88.1
Talbot	198	120	118	12.1	27.8	52.0	88.9	99.5
THIRD CIRCUIT								
Baltimore	4,884	106	94	38.5	54.7	67.1	84.9	98.5
Harford	1,319	219	131	24.3	36.4	45.7	59.3	84.0
FOURTH CIRCUIT								
Allegany	574	204	167	7.7	13.8	26.0	57.5	91.5
Garrett	108	172	158	13.0	21.3	30.6	64.8	95.4
Washington	1,335	154	137	7.6	27.4	48.8	74.9	95.6
FIFTH CIRCUIT								
Anne Arundel	2,096	151	121	19.8	35.0	52.5	76.9	95.7
Carroll	866	164	139	7.9	28.8	47.8	72.6	95.6
Howard	1,532	264	130	5.2	32.5	46.2	72.0	90.3
SIXTH CIRCUIT								
Frederick	1,542	182	152	8.9	19.9	37.9	63.2	92.7
Montgomery	2,454	111	90	41.2	56.1	67.6	84.6	97.2
SEVENTH CIRCUIT								
Calvert	399	134	116	25.3	45.1	61.9	80.5	96.0
Charles	1,086	177	153	6.8	16.8	35.5	65.6	95.9
Prince George's	5,930	152	127	13.0	31.0	52.2	76.2	95.2
St. Mary's	640	142	126	12.3	31.4	54.4	81.6	97.0
EIGHTH CIRCUIT								
Baltimore City	14,639	145	110	37.7	45.8	53.9	69.0	91.7
STATE	43,910	150	117	25.9	40.4	54.1	74.0	94.2

NOTE: This table does not include reopened cases. In some counties the number of terminated cases may differ slightly and will be lower than figures appearing on other tables in this report. Also see note on Table CC-13.

**TABLE CC-27**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**JUVENILE CASES**  
**FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS**  
**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED									
	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F	T
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,135</b>
Dorchester	174	186	163	142	263	240	175	165	226	213
Somerset	157	138	212	211	220	208	199	195	325	317
Wicomico	257	235	298	247	332	301	353	332	375	317
Worcester	246	288	305	295	369	348	316	316	297	288
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>1,576</b>
Caroline	153	148	152	163	156	155	163	173	203	207
Cecil	646	604	591	654	678	620	724	711	742	773
Kent	46	38	54	56	92	75	87	80	74	70
Queen Anne's	243	253	232	229	227	220	324	298	242	259
Talbot	218	208	234	232	300	277	184	199	280	267
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>4,319</b>	<b>3,919</b>	<b>4,624</b>	<b>3,889</b>	<b>5,651</b>	<b>4,856</b>	<b>5,440</b>	<b>4,940</b>	<b>5,654</b>	<b>4,344</b>
Baltimore	3,556	3,305	3,872	3,197	4,628	3,878	4,589	4,077	4,800	3,588
Harford	763	614	752	692	1,023	978	851	863	854	756
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,472</b>	<b>1,341</b>
Allegany	282	249	268	276	265	230	316	299	330	318
Garrett	157	156	155	141	140	135	133	143	201	171
Washington	630	629	712	671	778	737	791	708	941	852
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>5,080</b>	<b>4,883</b>	<b>5,612</b>	<b>5,275</b>	<b>6,091</b>	<b>5,655</b>	<b>5,684</b>	<b>5,523</b>	<b>5,545</b>	<b>5,304</b>
Anne Arundel	3,718	3,560	3,718	3,562	4,015	3,678	3,735	3,679	3,733	3,574
Carroll	548	481	910	830	789	810	664	599	664	654
Howard	814	842	984	883	1,287	1,167	1,285	1,245	1,148	1,076
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>5,725</b>	<b>5,743</b>	<b>6,680</b>	<b>6,267</b>	<b>8,525</b>	<b>7,408</b>	<b>7,781</b>	<b>7,396</b>	<b>8,116</b>	<b>7,883</b>
Frederick	641	599	684	622	911	865	866	872	1,335	1,301
Montgomery*	5,084	5,144	5,996	5,645	7,614	6,543	6,915	6,524	6,781	6,582
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>6,630</b>	<b>6,254</b>	<b>7,805</b>	<b>7,962</b>	<b>9,381</b>	<b>9,346</b>	<b>7,973</b>	<b>7,675</b>	<b>8,548</b>	<b>8,207</b>
Calvert	495	478	528	531	592	580	752	780	723	654
Charles	634	545	634	630	816	799	816	796	895	838
Prince George's	5,100	4,885	6,266	6,479	7,478	7,514	5,880	5,648	6,324	6,005
St. Mary's	401	346	377	322	495	453	525	451	606	710
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>17,781</b>	<b>16,181</b>	<b>16,593</b>	<b>14,650</b>	<b>12,398</b>	<b>8,062</b>	<b>10,260</b>	<b>5,456</b>	<b>11,483</b>	<b>6,020</b>
Baltimore City	17,781	16,181	16,593	14,650	12,398	8,062	10,260	5,456	11,483	6,020
<b>STATE</b>	<b>42,744</b>	<b>40,112</b>	<b>44,690</b>	<b>41,360</b>	<b>45,866</b>	<b>38,873</b>	<b>40,903</b>	<b>34,609</b>	<b>43,582</b>	<b>35,810</b>

\* Includes juvenile cases processed at the District Court level.

**TABLE CC-28****JUVENILE CASES FILED, TERMINATED, AND PENDING  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS****JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997  
FISCAL 1997**

	<b>PENDING</b>	<b>Filed</b>	<b>Terminated</b>	<b>PENDING</b>
	<b>Beginning of Year</b>			<b>End of Year</b>
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>353</b>
Dorchester	43	226	213	56
Somerset	41	325	317	49
Wicomico	130	375	317	188
Worcester	51	297	288	60
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>1,541</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>266</b>
Caroline	8	203	207	4
Cecil	216	742	773	185
Kent	35	74	70	39
Queen Anne's	32	242	259	15
Talbot	10	280	267	23
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>5,654</b>	<b>4,344</b>	<b>4,990</b>
Baltimore	3,554	4,800	3,588	4,766
Harford	126	854	756	224
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>1,472</b>	<b>1,341</b>	<b>397</b>
Allegany	57	330	318	69
Garrett	14	201	171	44
Washington	195	941	852	284
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>5,545</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>1,735</b>
Anne Arundel	474	3,733	3,574	633
Carroll	567	664	654	577
Howard	453	1,148	1,076	525
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>3,993</b>	<b>8,116</b>	<b>7,883</b>	<b>4,226</b>
Frederick	169	1,335	1,301	203
Montgomery	3,824	6,781	6,582	4,023
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>2,331</b>	<b>8,548</b>	<b>8,207</b>	<b>2,672</b>
Calvert	82	723	654	151
Charles	168	895	838	225
Prince George's	1,828	6,324	6,005	2,147
St. Mary's	253	606	710	149
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>	<b>28,792</b>	<b>11,483</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>34,255</b>
Baltimore City	28,792	11,483	6,020	34,255
<b>STATE</b>	<b>41,122</b>	<b>43,582</b>	<b>35,810</b>	<b>48,894</b>

NOTE: See note on Table CC-6.

TABLE CC-29

**JUVENILE-AVERAGE DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION BY AGE OF CASES  
AND CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES OF DISPOSITIONS WITHIN SPECIFIC TIME PERIODS**

**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997  
FISCAL 1997**

	Number of Cases*	AVERAGE IN DAYS FILING TO DISPOSITION		CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL CASES DISPOSED OF LESS THAN:					
		All Cases	Excluding Cases Over 271 Days	31 Days	61 Days	121 Days	181 Days	271 Days	361 Days
FIRST CIRCUIT									
Dorchester	103	82	53	35.0	63.1	83.5	90.3	93.2	94.2
Somerset	134	47	19	82.1	96.3	96.3	96.3	96.3	96.3
Wicomico	243	46	45	39.9	78.2	97.1	97.9	99.6	99.6
Worcester	220	51	49	19.5	80.5	97.7	99.5	99.5	99.5
SECOND CIRCUIT									
Caroline	57	16	16	70.2	98.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cecil	410	250	68	14.1	45.4	74.1	82.0	84.4	85.6
Kent	39	57	57	30.8	61.5	89.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Queen Anne's	70	53	53	31.4	64.3	94.3	97.1	100.0	100.0
Talbot	88	36	36	45.5	90.9	96.6	98.9	100.0	100.0
THIRD CIRCUIT									
Baltimore	3,071	70	64	23.5	45.0	89.9	95.4	98.3	99.2
Harford	455	83	80	15.4	39.3	83.5	93.8	99.1	99.3
FOURTH CIRCUIT									
Allegany	275	97	79	12.0	38.2	79.3	89.5	96.0	97.1
Garrett	96	45	45	47.9	80.2	91.7	99.0	100.0	100.0
Washington	363	78	64	26.7	51.2	86.8	94.5	97.0	97.8
FIFTH CIRCUIT									
Anne Arundel	1,534	74	66	16.1	58.1	91.3	96.5	98.4	98.8
Carroll	341	96	74	21.1	62.5	79.2	83.3	94.1	97.4
Howard	653	144	74	12.4	33.2	79.2	87.7	91.3	92.5
SIXTH CIRCUIT									
Frederick	703	79	73	20.8	45.0	84.6	94.0	97.7	99.0
Montgomery	2,163	156	94	11.6	29.4	60.6	76.2	85.0	88.6
SEVENTH CIRCUIT									
Calvert	319	143	74	15.7	42.9	85.0	92.5	97.2	98.1
Charles	497	76	75	10.7	41.0	92.0	99.0	99.6	100.0
Prince George's	2,017	84	67	19.3	45.0	87.5	93.9	95.8	96.8
St. Mary's	295	303	77	11.9	29.5	64.4	69.5	73.9	75.6
EIGHTH CIRCUIT									
Baltimore City**	5,054	19	11	89.1	91.9	95.7	97.3	98.7	99.0
STATE	19,200	79	53	37.8	58.0	86.4	92.5	95.6	96.7

\* This table does not include reopened cases. In some counties the number of terminated cases may differ slightly and will be lower than figures appearing on other tables in this report. Also see note on Table CC-13.

\*\* There appears to be a reporting problem in Baltimore City that had not been confirmed as of this printing.



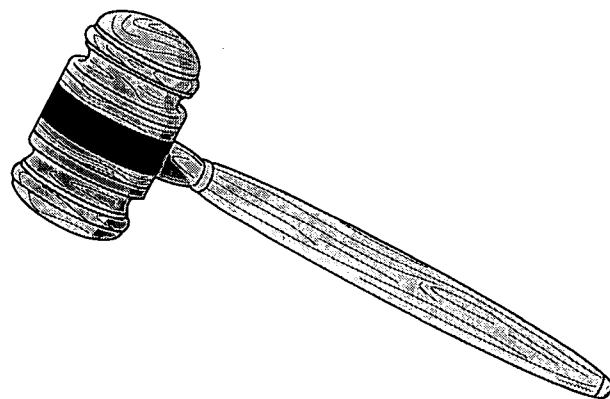
**TABLE CC-30**  
**DELINQUENCY TERMINATIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION**  
**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	Jurisdiction Waived	Dismissed	Stet	Probation	Social Services	Juvenile Services	Hospital Facility	Institutional	Transferred In	Transferred Out	Continued	Other	Guardianship	Adoption	TOTAL
<b>FIRST CIRCUIT</b>															
Dorchester	7	24	0	21	3	6	0	1	0	0	1	63	0	0	126
Somerset	32	12	0	29	7	19	0	0	0	0	19	38	0	0	156
Wicomico	36	30	22	55	4	59	0	2	3	1	0	42	0	0	254
Worcester	36	30	0	90	2	28	0	0	3	6	3	25	0	0	223
<b>SECOND CIRCUIT</b>															
Caroline	2	0	2	9	4	22	0	1	1	0	90	14	0	0	145
Cecil	11	133	29	103	7	49	1	2	0	0	0	9	0	0	344
Kent	1	10	0	11	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	38
Queen Anne's	0	4	0	37	3	41	0	1	3	1	0	126	0	0	216
Talbot	1	14	0	59	22	0	0	21	0	0	35	33	0	0	185
<b>THIRD CIRCUIT</b>															
Baltimore	93	498	811	1,085	68	376	0	0	65	9	8	145	0	0	3,158
Harford	10	57	0	209	36	32	0	50	7	5	0	83	0	0	489
<b>FOURTH CIRCUIT</b>															
Allegany	0	46	5	111	0	32	0	0	3	3	5	8	0	0	213
Garrett	0	7	0	32	4	17	1	0	1	6	0	12	0	0	80
Washington	17	33	0	149	41	101	0	0	16	11	0	44	0	0	412
<b>FIFTH CIRCUIT</b>															
Anne Arundel	4	275	195	1,144	9	238	0	83	60	65	263	682	0	0	3,018
Carroll	19	109	32	176	1	88	0	2	0	1	0	92	0	0	520
Howard	20	269	149	277	0	56	2	3	17	20	14	52	0	0	879
<b>SIXTH CIRCUIT</b>															
Frederick	16	225	36	310	20	120	17	0	6	12	154	107	0	0	1,023
Montgomery*	29	435	29	1,353	69	389	7	805	0	17	325	1,698	0	0	5,156
<b>SEVENTH CIRCUIT</b>															
Calvert	0	35	52	171	4	35	0	0	1	2	14	184	0	0	498
Charles	4	97	84	317	1	73	0	76	8	0	0	73	0	0	733
Prince George's	1	8	301	1,297	8	11	0	0	0	5	179	2,141	0	0	3,951
St. Mary's	0	95	15	114	51	55	1	5	7	5	0	189	0	0	537
<b>EIGHTH CIRCUIT</b>															
Baltimore City	55	2,726	0	4	5	1,295	0	0	3	5	0	716	0	0	4,809
<b>STATE</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>5,172</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>7,163</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>3,155</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>6,579</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,163</b>

\*Juvenile cases for Montgomery County are handled by the District Court.



*The  
District  
Court*





## The District Court

### Introduction

The District Court of Maryland was created as a result of the ratification in 1970 of a constitutional amendment proposed by the legislature in 1969. Operation of the District Court began on July 5, 1971, replacing a miscellaneous system of trial magistrates, people's and municipal courts with a fully State-funded court of record possessing statewide jurisdiction.

District Court judges are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. They are not required to stand for election. The first Chief Judge was designated by the Governor, but all subsequent chief judges are subject to appointment by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The District Court is divided into twelve geographical districts, each containing one or more political subdivisions, with at least one judge in each subdivision.

There were 100 District Court judgeships, including the Chief Judge, as of July 1, 1996. The Chief Judge is the administrative head of the Court and appoints administrative judges for each of the twelve districts, subject to the approval of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The Chief Judge of the District Court also appoints a chief clerk of the Court. Additionally, administrative clerks for each district, as well as commissioners who perform such duties as issuing arrest warrants and setting bail or collateral, also are appointed.

The District Court's jurisdiction includes criminal, including motor vehicle, and civil areas. It also has jurisdiction over juvenile causes only in Montgomery County. The exclusive

jurisdiction of the District Court generally includes all landlord and tenant cases; replevin actions; motor vehicle violations; criminal cases if the penalty is less than three years imprisonment or does not exceed a fine of \$2,500, or both; and civil cases involving amounts not exceeding \$2,500. It has concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts in civil cases over \$2,500 to, but not exceeding, \$20,000; and concurrent jurisdiction in misdemeanors and certain enumerated felonies. Since there are no juries provided in the District Court, a person entitled to and electing a jury trial must proceed to the circuit court.

### Motor Vehicle

During Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 5.4 percent was noted in motor vehicle case filings. There were 1,021,088 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1996, compared to the present level of 1,076,325 case filings. Motor vehicle cases comprised more than 50 percent of the District Court's caseload. The five larger jurisdictions contributed 61.1 percent (i.e., 657,662) of all motor vehicle cases recorded for the year. In comparison, the five larger jurisdictions accounted for 60.7 percent (i.e., 619,257) of all motor vehicle cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996. The greatest number of motor vehicle cases was reported by Prince George's County. There were 169,120 cases reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction, an increase of 11.6 percent over the previous year's total of 151,564 cases. Baltimore County followed, increasing 15.9 percent, from 142,810 cases during Fiscal Year 1996, to the present level of 165,542 cases. Baltimore

City and Anne Arundel County reported increases of 6.3 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively. There were 112,379 filings reported by Baltimore City reported during Fiscal Year 1997, compared to 105,743 filings during the previous year. Anne Arundel County's motor vehicle caseload increased from 87,917 cases during Fiscal Year 1996, to the present level of 89,501 cases. The only decrease among the five larger jurisdictions was reported by Montgomery County, decreasing 7.7 percent, from 131,223 cases during Fiscal Year 1996, to the current level of 121,050 cases.

The District Court processed 962,322 motor vehicle cases during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 1 percent over the 952,719 cases processed during Fiscal Year 1996. Included in the Fiscal Year 1997 figure are 301,111 cases that were tried, 548,754 tickets that were paid, and 112,457 "other" dispositions (e.g., nolle prossed, stet, and jury trial prayers). Baltimore County processed the greatest number of motor vehicle cases. The aforementioned jurisdiction reported 146,756 dispositions, an 8.9 percent increase over the previous year's total of 134,794 dispositions. Prince George's County followed with 144,457 motor vehicle dispositions, an increase of 12.1 percent over the 128,919 dispositions reported during Fiscal Year 1996. Anne Arundel County's motor vehicle dispositions increased by 6.2 percent (i.e., 87,510) over the prior year's total of 82,376 dispositions. Decreases of 13.9 percent and 1.8 percent were reported by Baltimore City and Montgomery County, respectively. During Fiscal Year 1997, Baltimore City reported 75,490 dis-

positions, while Montgomery County reported 117,826 motor vehicle dispositions (Table DC-4).

### **Criminal**

There were 194,833 criminal cases filed by the District Court during Fiscal Year 1997, representing an increase of 8.9 percent over the 178,935 criminal filings reported during the previous fiscal year. Baltimore City comprised more than 37 percent of all criminal cases filed during the fiscal year, reporting 72,487 filings. That figure represents an increase of 15.4 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 62,814 case filings. The remaining four larger jurisdictions — Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties — reported a combined total of 75,232 cases during Fiscal Year 1997, comprising 38.6 percent of all criminal cases reported. Prince George's and Baltimore Counties reported 25,029 and 22,845 cases, respectively, during Fiscal Year 1997. There were 13,785 criminal cases filed by Montgomery County, while Anne Arundel County recorded

13,573 criminal case filings. The 13,785 criminal cases filed by Montgomery County represented the only decrease reported among the five larger jurisdictions. That figure compares to the previous year's total of 14,094 filings.

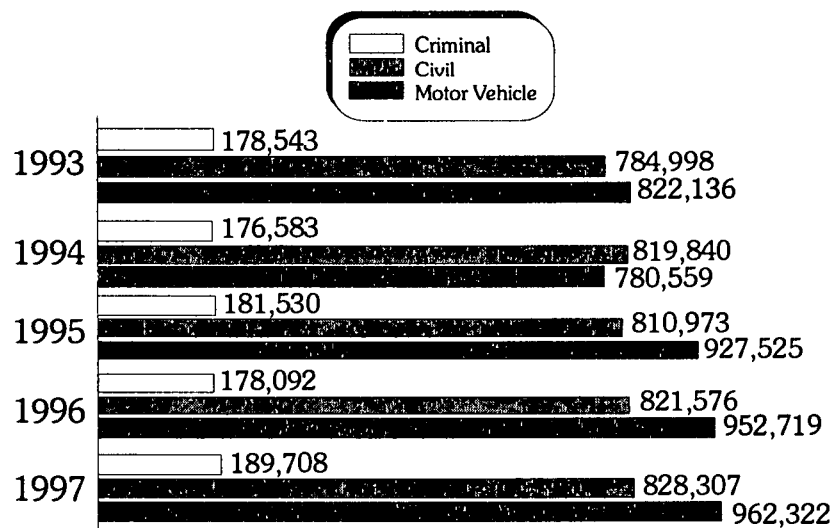
The District Court processed 189,708 criminal cases during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 6.5 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 178,092 criminal dispositions. The greatest number of dispositions was reported by Baltimore City with 70,675 criminal case dispositions during Fiscal Year 1997. That figure represents an increase of 10.1 percent over the 64,221 dispositions reported during the previous year. Baltimore City's criminal dispositions accounted for more than 37 percent of all criminal cases disposed during Fiscal Year 1997. With respect to the remaining four larger jurisdictions, 70,100 cases were processed, representing nearly 37 percent of the total number of criminal cases processed. Included in that figure are 23,391 criminal case dis-

positions reported by Prince George's County, 21,992 reported by Baltimore County, 12,823 reported by Montgomery County, and 11,894 criminal dispositions reported by Anne Arundel County. Prince George's County reported the only decrease among the five larger jurisdictions, decreasing by 6.4 percent from the previous year's total to 24,999 criminal dispositions (Table DC-4).

### **Civil**

During Fiscal Year 1997, there were 828,307 civil case filings reported, accounting for approximately 39.5 percent of the total filings reported by the District Court. The reported filings represent an increase of less than 1 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 821,576 civil cases. Approximately 86 percent of the case filings were reported by the five larger jurisdictions, which is consistent with the previous year's distribution. Baltimore City reported the greatest number of civil case filings with 229,332 cases. That figure compares with the previous year's

TABLE DC-1  
DISTRICT COURT-CASELOAD BY FISCAL YEAR



Total caseload for Fiscal Year 1997 - 1,980,337

total of 231,511 filings, a decrease of approximately 0.9 percent or 2,179 cases. Prince George's and Baltimore Counties followed with 191,291 and 152,389 civil cases, respectively. Prince George's County's civil filings decreased by 1.2 percent from the previous year's total of 193,577 cases, while an increase of 5.8 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 144,032 filings was realized by Baltimore County. Montgomery County reported 89,177 filings, a decrease of 3 percent from the 91,947 filings reported during the previous fiscal year. Anne Arundel County reported 46,103 civil case filings for Fiscal Year 1997, increasing from the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 44,827 civil case filings.

Approximately 71 percent of the civil case filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997 comprised landlord and tenant cases. There were 588,985 landlord and tenant cases filed during the year, compared to 588,046 filings during Fiscal Year 1996. The five larger jurisdictions reported a combined total of 529,988 cases, comprising approximately 90 percent of the landlord and tenant case filings. Baltimore City reported the greatest number with 177,737, a decrease of 1 percent from the previous year's total of 179,604 cases. Prince George's County followed with 155,258 cases, an increase of 1.7 percent over the Fiscal Year 1996 level of 152,725 filings. There were 113,841 landlord and tenant case filings reported by Baltimore County, an increase of 3.6 percent over the 109,850 cases reported during the previous fiscal year. Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties reported 53,910 and 29,242 filings, respectively.

Contract and tort filings represented 25 percent of the civil caseload during Fiscal Year 1997, totaling 207,792 case filings. That figure represents an increase of 2.3 percent over the 203,034 cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996. Baltimore

City reported the greatest number with 46,746, remaining relatively consistent with the 46,756 cases reported during Fiscal Year 1996. Baltimore County reported 29,036 contract and tort filings during Fiscal Year 1996, compared to the current level of 32,562 filings, an increase of 12.1 percent. Likewise, Montgomery County's contract and tort filings rose by 11 percent, from 28,358 during Fiscal Year 1996, to 31,467 filings during Fiscal Year 1997. Anne Arundel County also reported an increase of 7.5 percent or 1,024 filings, from the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 13,577 filings, to the current level of 14,601 filings. The only decrease among the five larger jurisdictions was reported by Prince George's County with 31,261 contract and tort filings, a decrease of 8.8 percent from the previous year's total of 36,381 filings. There were 31,530 "other" civil complaints filed by the District Court which include attachments before judgments and replevin actions (Table DC-4).

During Fiscal Year 1997, the District Court filed 15,755 special proceedings. That figure consists of 2,675 emergency hearings, 12,465 domestic violence cases and 615 child abuse cases. The five larger jurisdictions represent a large contributing factor to those figures with 2,115 emergency hearings, 9,555 domestic violence and 422 child abuse cases. Baltimore City reported the greatest number of domestic violence cases with 2,876 filings. Prince George's County followed with 2,572 domestic violence cases. There were 2,079 domestic violence cases filed by Baltimore County, while Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties filed 843 and 1,185 cases, respectively. Overall, domestic violence case filings decreased by 19.5 percent from the Fiscal Year 1996 total of 15,492 filings (Table DC-12).

### *Trends*

Continuing an upward trend, the District Court of Maryland reported 2,099,465 total filings during Fiscal Year 1997. During the last five years, total filings have increased by approximately 17.9 percent over the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 1,781,416 filings.

Motor vehicle filings have increased 29.6 percent since Fiscal Year 1993, from 830,400, to the present level of 1,076,325 filings. During the five-year period, each of the five larger jurisdictions experienced increases in their motor vehicle caseloads. The largest percentage increase occurred in Montgomery County. A total of 121,050 motor vehicle case filings was reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1997, representing an increase of 51.8 percent over the 79,747 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1993. Baltimore City followed with a 48.3 percent increase, from 75,786 filings during Fiscal Year 1993, to the present level of 112,379 filings. Prince George's County reported an increase of 38.2 percent. There were 169,120 filings reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1997, compared to the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 122,350 motor vehicle filings. Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties reported increases of 26.1 and 7.1 percent, respectively. The 165,542 filings reported by Baltimore County during Fiscal Year 1997 compare with 131,317 filings during Fiscal Year 1993. There were 89,501 motor vehicle filings reported by Anne Arundel County during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase over the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 83,553 filings.

The District Court's criminal caseload also has increased during the last five years. There were 166,018 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to the present level of 194,833 filings, an increase of 17.4 percent. During Fiscal Year 1993, the five larger jurisdic-

tions comprised approximately 74.4 percent of the total criminal caseload, compared to 75.8 percent during Fiscal Year 1997. An analysis of the data indicated that the largest percentage increase in criminal case filings was reported by Baltimore County. Criminal case filings in that jurisdiction increased 23.3 percent, from 18,534 during Fiscal Year 1993, to the present level of 22,845 filings. Baltimore City followed with a 23.1 percent increase, from 58,892 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1993, to 72,487 filings during Fiscal Year 1997. Prince George's and Montgomery Counties followed with increases of 17.5 and 16.3 percent, respectively. There were 25,029 filings reported by Prince George's County during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 3,721 filings over the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 21,208 criminal case filings. Montgomery County's criminal case filings rose over the last five fiscal years, from 11,855 during Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 13,785 filings. A 4.8 percent increase was reported by Anne Arundel County over the five-year period. During Fiscal Year 1993, there were 12,948 criminal case filings reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction, compared to the current level of 13,573 filings.

Since Fiscal Year 1993, the District Court has noted a 6.3 percent rise in criminal case dispositions (i.e., 11,165 additional dispositions). There were 178,543 criminal case dispositions reported during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to 189,708 dispositions during Fiscal Year 1997.

Over the last five years, civil caseload in the District Court has increased by 5.5 percent, from 784,998 filings during Fiscal Year

1993, to the current level of 828,307 filings. There were increases reported by four of the five larger jurisdictions during the last five years. The largest percentage increase (i.e., 11.7 percent) occurred in Baltimore County. There were 136,492 filings reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to the present level of 152,389 civil filings. Montgomery and Prince George's Counties followed with increases of 8.4 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively. During Fiscal Year 1993, Montgomery County reported 82,302 filings. That figure compares to 89,177 civil filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997. Likewise, Prince George's County's civil caseload rose by 12,253 filings, from 179,038 during Fiscal Year 1993, to the present level of 191,291 filings. Anne Arundel County reported 46,103 civil filings during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 5 percent over the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 43,927 filings. The only overall decrease reported during the last five years among the five larger jurisdictions was noted by Baltimore City. During Fiscal Year 1997, there were 229,332 filings reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction, a decrease of 4 percent from the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 238,795 filings.

Increases were reported in landlord/tenant, contract/tort and domestic violence case filings over the last five years. Since Fiscal Year 1993, landlord and tenant filings have increased by 5.7 percent, while contract/tort and domestic violence filings increased by 6.1 and 36.8 percent, respectively. Landlord and tenant filings rose from 557,206 during Fiscal Year 1993, to 588,985 filings during Fiscal Year 1997. There were

207,792 contract and tort filings reported during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 11,944 filings over the 195,848 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1993. Domestic violence filings increased from 9,114 during Fiscal Year 1993, to the present level of 12,465 filings. During the five-year period, increases occurred in each of the five larger jurisdictions, with the most significant percentage increase occurring in Anne Arundel County. There were 652 domestic violence filings reported by the aforementioned jurisdiction during Fiscal Year 1993, compared to 1,185 filings during Fiscal Year 1997, an increase of 81.8 percent. Baltimore County experienced a 59.8 percent increase over the five-year period, from 1,302 filings during Fiscal Year 1993, to the present level of 2,079 filings. Montgomery and Prince George's Counties reported increases of 33.4 percent and 28.9 percent, respectively, while Baltimore City's domestic violence caseload increased by 15.1 percent over the last five years. Montgomery County increased from 632 filings during Fiscal Year 1993, to the current level of 843 filings. Domestic violence filings in Prince George's County climbed from 1,995 during Fiscal Year 1993, to 2,572 filings during Fiscal Year 1997. There were 2,876 domestic violence filings reported by Baltimore City during Fiscal Year 1997. That figure compares with the Fiscal Year 1993 level of 2,498 filings.

The increases in each of the delineated categories in the District Court — civil, criminal, and motor vehicle — will undoubtedly continue to strain the Court's judicial resources.



**TABLE DC-2**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**MOTOR VEHICLE AND CRIMINAL CASES PROCESSED**  
**AND CIVIL CASES FILED IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**  
**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>					
Baltimore City	374,971	389,512	402,059	383,410	375,497
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>					
Dorchester	16,037	15,488	15,913	13,885	12,543
Somerset	10,225	10,896	12,223	10,743	11,462
Wicomico	31,409	33,514	40,063	44,376	43,096
Worcester	25,151	24,214	30,176	29,434	30,457
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>					
Caroline	8,363	7,355	9,522	9,478	8,557
Cecil	35,018	32,455	37,244	38,533	47,897
Kent	6,415	6,868	8,641	7,670	7,653
Queen Anne's	12,598	13,611	17,765	18,290	18,264
Talbot	16,409	13,205	16,935	16,982	14,355
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>					
Calvert	17,251	16,741	18,992	21,696	19,879
Charles	28,515	26,781	33,355	35,059	31,675
St. Mary's	20,228	17,294	21,499	27,597	24,445
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>					
Prince George's	312,639	317,687	336,404	347,495	359,139
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>					
Montgomery	178,883	171,275	197,416	224,709	219,826
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>					
Anne Arundel	140,389	136,407	145,792	137,525	145,507
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>					
Baltimore	289,411	286,541	286,708	298,983	321,137
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>					
Harford	53,948	53,748	54,639	51,656	55,207
<b>DISTRICT 10</b>					
Carroll	28,579	26,375	31,666	33,295	29,279
Howard	66,790	67,233	78,801	83,821	88,371
<b>DISTRICT 11</b>					
Frederick	50,906	45,977	50,734	49,627	49,459
Washington	31,901	34,142	37,428	37,073	36,458
<b>DISTRICT 12</b>					
Allegany	19,623	19,192	20,814	18,341	18,243
Garrett	10,018	10,471	15,239	12,709	11,931
<b>STATE</b>	<b>1,785,677</b>	<b>1,776,982</b>	<b>1,920,028</b>	<b>1,952,387</b>	<b>1,980,337</b>

**TABLE DC-3**  
**COMPARATIVE TABLE ON CASES FILED OR PROCESSED**  
**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**  
**FISCAL 1996—FISCAL 1997**

	MOTOR VEHICLE CASES PROCESSED			CRIMINAL CASES PROCESSED			CIVIL CASES FILED		
	1995-96	1996-97	% Change	1995-96	1996-97	% Change	1995-96	1996-97	% Change
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>									
Baltimore City	87,678	75,490	-13.9	64,221	70,675	10.1	231,511	229,332	-0.9
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>									
Dorchester	8,221	7,194	-12.4	1,608	1,687	4.9	4,056	3,662	-9.7
Somerset	8,312	8,575	3.2	791	761	-3.8	1,640	2,126	29.6
Wicomico	29,237	27,489	-6.0	3,568	3,369	-5.6	11,571	12,238	5.8
Worcester	22,103	22,046	-0.3	3,042	3,936	29.4	4,289	4,475	4.3
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>									
Caroline	5,998	4,889	-18.5	1,172	1,545	31.8	2,308	2,123	-8.0
Cecil	31,072	40,034	28.8	2,633	2,990	13.6	4,828	4,873	0.9
Kent	5,585	5,629	0.8	588	703	19.6	1,497	1,321	-11.8
Queen Anne's	15,671	15,604	-4.3	929	1,015	9.3	1,690	1,645	-2.7
Talbot	12,931	10,268	-20.6	1,411	1,615	14.6	2,640	2,472	-6.4
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>									
Calvert	16,629	14,587	-12.3	2,021	2,073	2.6	3,046	3,219	5.7
Charles	24,388	21,052	-13.7	3,280	3,117	-5.0	7,391	7,506	1.6
St. Mary's	19,988	16,479	-17.6	2,491	2,805	12.6	5,118	5,161	0.8
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>									
Prince George's	128,919	144,457	12.1	24,999	23,391	-6.4	193,577	191,291	-1.2
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>									
Montgomery	120,021	117,826	-1.8	12,741	12,823	0.6	91,947	89,177	-3.0
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>									
Anne Arundel	82,376	87,510	6.2	10,322	11,894	15.2	44,827	46,103	2.9
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>									
Baltimore	134,794	146,756	8.9	20,157	21,992	9.1	144,032	152,389	5.8
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>									
Harford	31,916	34,127	6.9	3,827	4,412	15.3	15,913	16,668	4.7
<b>DISTRICT 10</b>									
Carroll	24,722	20,119	-18.6	2,567	2,759	7.5	6,006	6,401	6.5
Howard	61,978	65,071	5.0	4,914	4,439	-9.6	16,929	18,861	11.4
<b>DISTRICT 11</b>									
Frederick	34,867	34,197	-1.9	3,570	3,487	-2.3	11,190	11,775	5.2
Washington	22,721	21,456	-5.6	3,236	3,815	17.9	11,116	11,187	0.6
<b>DISTRICT 12</b>									
Allegany	11,795	11,599	-1.7	2,954	3,197	8.2	3,592	3,447	-4.0
Garrett	10,797	9,868	-8.6	1,050	1,208	15.1	862	855	-0.8
<b>STATE</b>	<b>952,719</b>	<b>962,322</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>178,092</b>	<b>189,708</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>821,576</b>	<b>828,307</b>	<b>0.8</b>

TABLE DC-4

## MOTOR VEHICLE, CRIMINAL, AND CIVIL CASES FILED AND PROCESSED IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND

JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997  
FISCAL YEAR 1997

	MOTOR VEHICLE CASES						CRIMINAL CASES		CIVIL CASES								TOTAL CASES FILED
	Cases Filed	Cases Tried	Cases Paid	Other Dispositions	Total Cases Processed	Cases Filed	Cases Processed	Landlord and Tenant		Contract and Tort		Other Complaints Filed	Total				
								Filed	Con- tested	Filed	Con- tested		Filed	Con- tested			
DISTRICT 1	112,379	29,931	37,920	7,639	75,490	72,487	70,675	177,737	5,938	46,746	10,624	4,849	229,332	16,562	414,198		
Baltimore City	112,379	29,931	37,920	7,639	75,490	72,487	70,675	177,737	5,938	46,746	10,624	4,849	229,332	16,562	414,198		
DISTRICT 2	68,813	11,368	45,843	8,043	65,304	9,302	9,753	10,485	1,532	10,037	1,342	1,979	22,051	2,874	100,616		
Dorchester	7,216	2,011	4,447	736	7,194	1,483	1,687	1,280	385	1,824	284	558	3,662	619	12,271		
Somerset	8,942	682	7,177	716	8,575	853	761	905	129	1,088	128	133	2,126	257	11,921		
Wicomico	30,252	4,579	19,649	3,261	27,489	3,060	3,369	7,358	856	4,086	545	794	12,238	1,401	45,550		
Worcester	22,493	4,096	14,570	3,390	22,046	3,906	3,936	942	162	3,039	435	494	4,475	597	30,874		
DISTRICT 3	80,012	16,272	53,771	6,381	76,424	6,925	7,868	4,467	554	6,856	1,315	1,111	12,434	1,869	99,371		
Caroline	4,678	1,474	2,866	549	4,889	1,171	1,545	682	0	1,250	158	191	2,123	158	7,972		
Cecil	42,613	6,188	30,833	3,013	40,034	2,777	2,990	2,350	231	2,101	457	422	4,873	688	50,263		
Kent	5,868	1,174	4,034	421	5,629	614	703	268	50	910	53	143	1,321	103	7,803		
Queen Anne's	17,238	3,938	10,320	1,346	15,604	991	1,015	357	61	1,122	311	166	1,645	372	19,874		
Talbot	9,615	3,498	5,718	1,052	10,268	1,372	1,615	810	212	1,473	336	189	2,472	548	13,459		
DISTRICT 4	52,935	11,836	30,535	9,747	52,118	8,211	7,995	7,389	420	7,220	1,380	1,277	15,886	1,800	77,032		
Calvert	14,162	4,018	8,254	2,315	14,587	2,015	2,073	726	61	2,241	454	252	3,219	515	19,396		
Charles	23,022	5,463	12,919	2,670	21,052	3,550	3,117	3,507	233	3,301	632	698	7,506	865	34,078		
St. Mary's	15,751	2,355	9,362	4,762	16,479	2,646	2,805	3,156	126	1,678	294	327	5,161	420	23,558		
DISTRICT 5	169,120	46,850	75,329	22,278	144,457	25,029	23,391	155,258	9,504	31,261	6,307	4,772	191,291	15,811	385,440		
Prince George's	169,120	46,850	75,329	22,278	144,457	25,029	23,391	155,258	9,504	31,261	6,307	4,772	191,291	15,811	385,440		
DISTRICT 6	121,050	39,247	66,909	11,670	117,826	13,785	12,823	53,910	2,843	31,467	4,753	3,800	89,177	7,596	224,012		
Montgomery	121,050	39,247	66,909	11,670	117,826	13,785	12,823	53,910	2,843	31,467	4,753	3,800	89,177	7,596	224,012		
DISTRICT 7	89,501	30,329	42,197	14,984	87,510	13,573	11,894	29,242	936	14,601	4,116	2,260	46,103	5,052	149,177		
Anne Arundel	89,501	30,329	42,197	14,984	87,510	13,573	11,894	29,242	936	14,601	4,116	2,260	46,103	5,052	149,177		
DISTRICT 8	165,542	60,144	74,101	12,511	146,756	22,845	21,992	113,841	1,750	32,562	7,456	5,986	152,389	9,206	340,776		
Baltimore	165,542	60,144	74,101	12,511	146,756	22,845	21,992	113,841	1,750	32,562	7,456	5,986	152,389	9,206	340,776		
DISTRICT 9	34,739	11,953	19,503	2,671	34,127	3,656	4,412	9,603	485	5,577	1,352	1,488	16,668	1,837	55,063		
Harford	34,739	11,953	19,503	2,671	34,127	3,656	4,412	9,603	485	5,577	1,352	1,488	16,668	1,837	55,063		
DISTRICT 10	100,676	26,779	51,321	7,090	85,190	6,974	7,198	14,736	512	8,460	1,779	2,066	25,262	2,291	132,912		
Carroll	20,719	6,686	11,143	2,290	20,119	2,670	2,759	2,103	216	3,574	876	724	6,401	1,092	29,790		
Howard	79,957	20,093	40,178	4,800	65,071	4,304	4,439	12,633	296	4,886	903	1,342	18,861	1,199	103,122		
DISTRICT 11	59,382	12,616	35,999	7,038	55,653	7,466	7,302	11,427	865	9,919	1,853	1,616	22,962	2,718	89,810		
Frederick	37,136	8,421	21,281	4,495	34,197	3,759	3,487	5,613	326	5,261	1,135	901	11,775	1,461	52,670		
Washington	22,246	4,195	14,718	2,543	21,456	3,707	3,815	5,814	539	4,658	718	715	11,187	1,257	37,140		
DISTRICT 12	22,176	3,786	15,326	2,355	21,467	4,580	4,405	890	214	3,086	829	326	4,302	1,043	34,058		
Allegany	11,868	2,560	7,360	1,679	11,599	3,466	3,197	822	213	2,386	657	239	3,447	870	18,781		
Garrett	10,308	1,226	7,966	676	9,868	1,114	1,208	68	1	700	172	87	855	173	12,277		
STATE	1,076,325	301,111	548,754	112,457	962,322	194,833	189,708	588,985	25,553	207,792	43,106	31,530	828,307	68,659	2,099,465		

**TABLE DC-5**  
**POPULATION AND CASELOAD PER DISTRICT COURT JUDGE\***  
**AS OF JUNE 30, 1997**  
**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	Number of Judges	Population Per Judge**	CASES FILED OR PROCESSED PER JUDGE			
			Civil	Motor Vehicle	Criminal	Total
<b>DISTRICT 1</b> Baltimore City	24	28,882	9,556	3,145	2,945	15,646
<b>DISTRICT 2</b> Dorchester	1	29,900	3,662	7,194	1,687	12,543
Somerset	1	24,500	2,126	8,575	761	11,462
Wicomico	2	39,950	6,119	13,745	1,684	21,548
Worcester	1	42,100	4,475	22,046	3,936	30,457
<b>DISTRICT 3</b> Caroline	1	29,500	2,123	4,889	1,545	8,557
Cecil	2	40,300	2,436	20,017	1,495	23,948
Kent	1	19,000	1,321	5,629	703	7,653
Queen Anne's	1	38,600	1,645	15,604	1,015	18,264
Talbot	1	32,600	2,472	10,268	1,615	14,355
<b>DISTRICT 4</b> Calvert	1	69,200	3,219	14,587	2,073	19,879
Charles	2	57,650	3,753	10,526	1,559	15,838
St. Mary's	1	83,300	5,161	16,479	2,805	21,445
<b>DISTRICT 5</b> Prince George's	11	70,809	17,390	13,132	2,126	32,648
<b>DISTRICT 6</b> Montgomery	9***	91,633	9,909	13,091	1,425	24,426
<b>DISTRICT 7</b> Anne Arundel	8	58,937	5,763	10,938	1,487	18,189
<b>DISTRICT 8</b> Baltimore	12	55,430	12,699	12,230	1,833	26,762
<b>DISTRICT 9</b> Harford	4	53,225	4,167	8,532	1,103	13,802
<b>DISTRICT 10</b> Carroll	2	73,350	3,201	10,060	1,380	14,641
Howard	4	57,600	4,715	16,268	1,110	22,093
<b>DISTRICT 11</b> Frederick	2	92,050	5,888	17,099	1,744	24,731
Washington	2	63,900	5,594	10,728	1,908	18,230
<b>DISTRICT 12</b> Allegany	2	36,300	1,724	5,800	1,599	9,123
Garrett	1	29,500	855	9,868	1,208	11,931
<b>STATE</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>53,213</b>	<b>8,628</b>	<b>10,024</b>	<b>1,976</b>	<b>20,628</b>

\* Chief Judge of District Court not included in statistics. Number of judges as of June 30, 1997.

\*\* Population estimates for July 1, 1997, issued by the Maryland Center for Health Statistics.

\*\*\* Three Juvenile Court judges and juvenile causes omitted as included in juvenile statistics.

**TABLE DC-6**  
**CASES FILED OR PROCESSED IN THE DISTRICT COURT**  
**PER THOUSAND POPULATION**

**JULY 1, 1996—JUNE 30, 1997**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	Population	Civil Filed	Motor Vehicle Processed	Criminal Processed	Total
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>					
Baltimore City	664,300	345	113	106	565
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>					
Dorchester	29,900	122	240	56	419
Somerset	24,500	86	350	31	467
Wicomico	79,900	153	344	42	539
Worcester	42,100	106	523	93	723
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>					
Caroline	29,500	71	165	52	290
Cecil	80,600	60	496	37	594
Kent	19,000	69	296	37	402
Queen Anne's	38,600	42	404	26	473
Talbot	32,600	75	314	49	440
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>					
Calvert	69,200	46	210	29	287
Charles	115,300	65	182	27	274
St. Mary's	83,300	69	197	33	300
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>					
Prince George's	778,900	246	185	30	461
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>					
Montgomery	824,700	108	142	15	266
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>					
Anne Arundel	474,400	97	184	25	306
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>					
Baltimore	721,900	211	203	30	444
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>					
Harford	212,800	78	160	20	259
<b>DISTRICT 10</b>					
Carroll	146,700	44	137	18	199
Howard	230,400	82	282	19	383
<b>DISTRICT 11</b>					
Frederick	184,100	64	185	18	268
Washington	127,800	87	167	29	383
<b>DISTRICT 12</b>					
Allegany	72,600	47	159	44	251
Garrett	29,500	29	334	40	404
<b>STATE</b>	<b>5,108,500</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>388</b>

\* Population estimate for July 1, 1997, issued by the Maryland Center for Health Statistics.

**TABLE DC-7**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**MOTOR VEHICLE CASES PROCESSED**  
**BY THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**  
**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>					
Baltimore City	76,350	73,042	85,100	87,678	75,490
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>					
Dorchester	11,365	10,244	10,578	8,221	7,194
Somerset	7,685	8,130	9,750	8,312	8,575
Wicomico	18,994	19,769	25,440	29,237	27,489
Worcester	17,873	17,142	22,554	22,103	22,046
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>					
Caroline	5,595	4,583	6,088	5,998	4,889
Cecil	28,023	25,644	29,940	31,072	40,034
Kent	4,356	4,956	6,758	5,585	5,629
Queen Anne's	9,716	11,086	14,849	15,671	15,604
Talbot	12,568	9,722	12,756	12,931	10,268
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>					
Calvert	12,978	12,116	14,107	16,629	14,587
Charles	17,171	15,911	21,970	24,388	21,052
St. Mary's	12,947	9,879	13,879	19,988	16,479
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>					
Prince George's	107,441	107,631	125,999	128,919	144,457
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>					
Montgomery	83,465	80,818	106,394	120,021	117,826
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>					
Anne Arundel	82,328	79,381	88,415	82,376	87,510
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>					
Baltimore	134,054	118,461	129,865	134,794	146,756
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>					
Harford	36,006	34,958	36,003	31,916	34,127
<b>DISTRICT 10</b>					
Carroll	20,753	18,127	23,585	24,722	20,119
Howard	45,201	44,799	55,887	61,978	65,071
<b>DISTRICT 11</b>					
Frederick	35,613	31,089	36,210	34,867	34,197
Washington	19,052	21,148	23,845	22,721	21,456
<b>DISTRICT 12</b>					
Allegany	14,449	13,235	14,290	11,795	11,599
Garrett	8,153	8,688	13,263	10,797	9,868
<b>STATE</b>	<b>822,136</b>	<b>780,559</b>	<b>927,525</b>	<b>952,719</b>	<b>962,322</b>

TABLE DC-8

**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE  
CRIMINAL CASES BY THE NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS CHARGED  
PROCESSED IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**

**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>					
Baltimore City	59,826	62,419	64,537	64,221	70,675
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>					
Dorchester	1,655	1,868	1,673	1,608	1,687
Somerset	1,027	1,003	887	791	761
Wicomico	3,346	3,451	4,252	3,568	3,369
Worcester	3,815	3,286	3,515	3,042	3,936
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>					
Caroline	975	946	1,191	1,172	1,545
Cecil	2,836	2,484	2,576	2,633	2,990
Kent	514	495	545	588	703
Queen Anne's	934	854	1,034	929	1,015
Talbot	1,369	1,276	1,555	1,411	1,615
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>					
Calvert	2,146	2,239	2,144	2,021	2,073
Charles	3,884	3,600	3,765	3,280	3,117
St. Mary's	2,364	2,673	2,334	2,491	2,805
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>					
Prince George's	26,160	22,543	25,351	24,999	23,391
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>					
Montgomery	13,116	13,305	13,030	12,741	12,823
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>					
Anne Arundel	14,134	12,277	11,340	10,322	11,894
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>					
Baltimore	18,865	21,185	19,348	20,157	21,992
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>					
Harford	4,070	3,949	3,870	3,827	4,412
<b>DISTRICT 10</b>					
Carroll	2,429	2,313	2,356	2,567	2,759
Howard	4,227	4,055	4,820	4,914	4,439
<b>DISTRICT 11</b>					
Frederick	3,813	3,565	3,610	3,570	3,487
Washington	3,354	3,067	3,459	3,236	3,815
<b>DISTRICT 12</b>					
Allegany	2,782	2,740	3,310	2,954	3,197
Garrett	902	990	1,028	1,050	1,208
<b>STATE</b>	<b>178,543</b>	<b>176,583</b>	<b>181,530</b>	<b>178,092</b>	<b>189,708</b>

**TABLE DC-9**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**CIVIL CASES FILED**  
**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**  
**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>					
Baltimore City	238,795	254,051	252,422	231,511	229,332
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>					
Dorchester	3,017	3,376	3,662	4,056	3,662
Somerset	1,513	1,763	1,586	1,640	2,126
Wicomico	9,069	10,294	10,371	11,571	12,238
Worcester	3,463	3,786	4,107	4,289	4,475
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>					
Caroline	1,793	1,826	2,243	2,308	2,123
Cecil	4,159	4,327	4,728	4,828	4,873
Kent	1,545	1,417	1,338	1,497	1,321
Queen Anne's	1,948	1,671	1,882	1,690	1,645
Talbot	2,472	2,207	2,624	2,640	2,472
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>					
Calvert	2,127	2,386	2,741	3,046	3,219
Charles	7,460	7,270	7,620	7,391	7,506
St. Mary's	4,917	4,742	5,286	5,118	5,161
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>					
Prince George's	179,038	187,513	185,054	193,577	191,291
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>					
Montgomery	82,302	77,152	77,992	91,947	89,177
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>					
Anne Arundel	43,927	44,749	46,037	44,827	46,103
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>					
Baltimore	136,492	146,895	137,495	144,032	152,389
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>					
Harford	13,872	14,841	14,766	15,913	16,668
<b>DISTRICT 10</b>					
Carroll	5,397	5,935	5,725	6,006	6,401
Howard	17,362	18,379	18,094	16,929	18,861
<b>DISTRICT 11</b>					
Frederick	11,480	11,323	10,914	11,190	11,775
Washington	9,495	9,927	10,124	11,116	11,187
<b>DISTRICT 12</b>					
Allegany	2,392	3,217	3,214	3,592	3,447
Garrett	963	793	948	862	855
<b>STATE</b>	<b>784,998</b>	<b>819,840</b>	<b>810,973</b>	<b>821,576</b>	<b>828,307</b>



**TABLE DC-10**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED CASES RECEIVED BY**  
**THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**  
**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	% Change
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>						
Baltimore City	1,708	1,666	1,819	1,697	1,531	-9.8
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>						
Dorchester	265	239	220	213	224	5.2
Somerset	197	192	161	152	168	10.5
Wicomico	504	515	483	559	572	2.3
Worcester	815	884	832	891	834	-6.4
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>						
Caroline	231	222	254	191	206	7.9
Cecil	746	726	849	969	1,157	19.4
Kent	283	224	154	173	216	24.9
Queen Anne's	310	255	333	333	403	21.0
Talbot	310	298	389	320	306	-4.4
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>						
Calvert	731	729	749	656	603	-8.1
Charles	774	676	724	802	713	-11.1
St. Mary's	1,127	608	741	1,223	1,263	3.3
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>						
Prince George's	3,888	3,630	4,267	4,325	4,561	5.5
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>						
Montgomery	3,006	2,934	3,348	4,042	5,317	31.5
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>						
Anne Arundel	7,055	6,967	6,501	6,164	6,230	1.1
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>						
Baltimore	3,127	2,521	2,498	2,734	2,683	-1.9
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>						
Harford	1,406	1,235	1,191	1,152	1,157	0.4
<b>DISTRICT 10</b>						
Carroll	1,102	792	577	631	586	-7.1
Howard	1,690	1,698	1,621	1,539	1,669	8.5
<b>DISTRICT 11</b>						
Frederick	1,318	1,274	1,340	1,529	1,488	-2.6
Washington	821	781	865	907	730	-19.5
<b>DISTRICT 12</b>						
Allegany	578	552	468	492	509	3.5
Garrett	217	208	264	204	235	15.2
<b>STATE</b>	<b>32,209</b>	<b>29,826</b>	<b>30,648</b>	<b>31,898</b>	<b>33,361</b>	<b>4.6</b>

**TABLE DC-11**  
**DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED DISPOSITIONS**  
**FISCAL 1997**

	Guilty	Not Guilty	Probation Before Judgment	Nolle Prossed	Stet	Merged	Jury Trial Prayers	Dis-missed	Miscellaneous	Total Dispositions
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>										
Baltimore City	572	63	531	123	133	4	70	12	9	1,517
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>										
Dorchester	173	5	24	29	0	0	23	2	0	256
Somerset	81	2	4	27	2	0	56	1	0	173
Wicomico	195	18	186	55	9	0	113	0	2	578
Worcester	341	12	113	160	4	0	243	0	1	874
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>										
Caroline	161	5	27	28	3	0	14	2	1	241
Cecil	272	8	221	175	18	7	462	0	2	1,165
Kent	108	7	78	13	2	0	9	2	1	220
Queen Anne's	296	16	78	74	2	1	3	0	0	470
Talbot	216	15	121	31	7	0	24	0	0	414
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>										
Calvert	263	5	204	34	8	0	53	0	3	570
Charles	280	5	183	49	11	0	114	1	3	646
St. Mary's	378	24	84	510	43	4	189	88	1	1,321
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>										
Prince George's	337	93	860	1,712	77	8	828	20	21	3,956
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>										
Montgomery	1,322	47	1,246	893	1,292	4	144	9	20	4,977
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>										
Anne Arundel	1,044	261	1,283	1,509	1,716	342	72	58	48	6,333
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>										
Baltimore	1,052	85	1,219	198	34	2	166	1	21	2,778
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>										
Harford	652	13	572	48	4	2	229	2	6	1,528
<b>DISTRICT 10</b>										
Carroll	219	21	278	39	8	0	102	0	9	676
Howard	425	36	655	96	67	0	249	33	3	1,564
<b>DISTRICT 11</b>										
Frederick	533	9	733	70	48	0	316	0	7	1,716
Washington	259	3	276	59	2	0	254	0	2	855
<b>DISTRICT 12</b>										
Allegany	240	6	212	37	10	0	51	1	8	565
Garrett	134	2	98	15	2	0	10	0	0	261
<b>STATE</b>	<b>9,553</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>9,286</b>	<b>5,984</b>	<b>3,502</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>3,794</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>33,654</b>

**TABLE DC-12**  
**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**EMERGENCY EVALUATION AND DOMESTIC ABUSE HEARINGS**  
**HELD IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**  
**FISCAL 1993—FISCAL 1997**

	Emergency Hearings					Domestic Violence				
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>										
Baltimore City	676	782	610	465	593	2,498	3,190	3,393	3,648	2,876
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>										
Dorchester	16	22	22	25	25	64	102	106	114	84
Somerset	7	4	6	1	1	18	25	33	40	20
Wicomico	68	64	40	55	62	185	371	476	536	357
Worcester	21	25	21	7	29	42	87	112	123	85
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>										
Caroline	1	4	4	4	0	25	58	81	88	45
Cecil	39	52	32	50	32	165	233	294	312	184
Kent	18	30	12	5	0	17	29	23	23	18
Queen Anne's	10	10	9	6	13	46	59	64	69	57
Talbot	1	5	3	2	4	44	40	41	33	51
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>										
Calvert	18	22	22	24	14	92	111	116	133	118
Charles	53	66	64	47	44	134	207	194	204	143
St. Mary's	33	26	18	34	28	135	128	183	190	130
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>										
Prince George's	443	482	447	457	345	1,995	2,636	2,882	3,228	2,572
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>										
Montgomery	464	534	497	453	443	632	889	897	1,008	843
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>										
Anne Arundel	211	263	296	230	242	652	1,090	1,159	1,332	1,185
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>										
Baltimore	405	493	577	517	492	1,302	1,800	2,170	2,475	2,079
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>										
Harford	36	29	37	56	54	145	226	261	373	298
<b>DISTRICT 10</b>										
Carroll	16	25	24	25	44	79	133	92	152	143
Howard	69	62	51	64	64	134	214	277	278	237
<b>DISTRICT 11</b>										
Frederick	46	58	52	50	55	219	311	364	387	313
Washington	51	42	48	47	64	256	304	362	403	363
<b>DISTRICT 12</b>										
Allegany	55	39	37	49	22	162	199	240	245	196
Garrett	17	7	17	6	5	73	80	105	98	68
<b>STATE</b>	<b>2,774</b>	<b>3,146</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>2,679</b>	<b>2,675</b>	<b>9,114</b>	<b>12,522</b>	<b>13,925</b>	<b>15,492</b>	<b>12,465</b>

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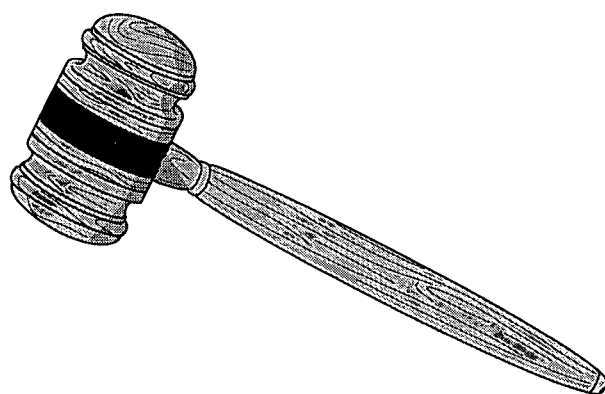
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*The*  
*Orphans'*  
*Court*





## *The Orphans' Court*

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In almost every county and in Baltimore City, the Orphans' Court is the court of probate. When Maryland was a British colony, testamentary functions were the responsibility of the Commissary General of the Prerogative Court and a deputy commissary in each county tended to these matters. This centralized administration of probate was abolished during the Revolutionary War.

Maryland's first constitution, adopted in November of 1776, authorized a Register of Wills to oversee probate in each county. The following spring, the General Assembly formally established the Orphans' Court as the mechanism for probate administration, with the Register of Wills as the Court's Chief Clerk. The name, as well as the idea, was taken from the Court of Orphans of the City of London. That Court had the care and guardianship of orphaned children of London citizens and could compel executors and guardians to

file inventories and accounts and give securities for their estates.

Today, the Orphans' Court hears all matters involving decedents' estates which are contested and supervises all of those estates which are probated judicially. It approves accounts, awards of personal representative's commissions, and attorney's fees in all estates. The Court also has concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in the guardianships of minors and their property. All matters involving the validity of wills and the transfer of property in which legal questions and disputes occur are resolved by the Orphans' Court.

There are three judges who sit on the Orphans' Court in Baltimore City and in each of the counties, except Montgomery County and Harford County. The judges are elected every four years and, in the case of a vacancy, the Governor is authorized to appoint a suitable person, subject

to Senate confirmation, to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term. Of the three persons elected in Baltimore City and in each of the counties, the Governor designates one as the Chief Judge of the Court. In Montgomery County and Harford County, circuit court judges sit as Orphans' Court judges.

In contrast to the State's trial and appellate court judges, individuals elected to serve as judges of the Orphans' Court are not required to be attorneys. The General Assembly prescribes the powers and jurisdiction of the Court and fixes the compensation of each of the three elected judges, who are paid by the city or county government. An appeal from a decision by the Orphans' Court may be to a circuit court, where the matter is tried *de novo* before a judge or jury, or to the Court of Special Appeals, where the matter is heard on the record.

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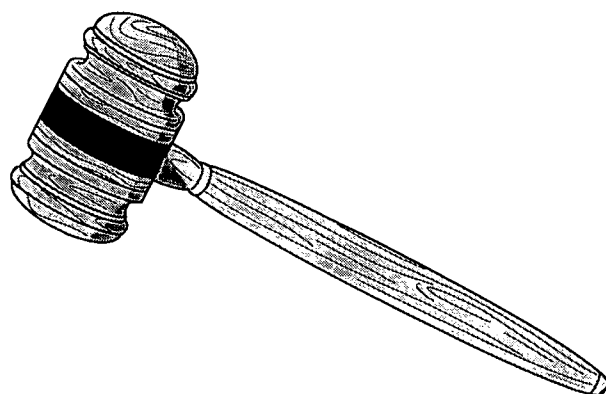
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# *Judicial Administration*





# Judicial Administration

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## **Administrative Office of the Courts**

Under Article IV, §18(b) of the Maryland Constitution, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is the "administrative head of the judicial system of the State."

Forty years ago, the Maryland Legislature took an additional step to provide the administrative and professional staff necessary to assist the Chief Judge to carry out the administrative responsibilities under the Constitution by enacting §13-101 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article. This statute established the Administrative Office of the Courts under the direction of the State Court Administrator, who is appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Chief Judge. The State Court Administrator and the Administrative Office of the Courts provide the Chief Judge with advice, information, facilities, and staff to assist in the performance of the Chief Judge's administrative responsibilities. The administrative responsibilities include personnel administration, preparation and administration of the Judiciary Budget, liaison with legislative and executive branches, planning and research, education of judges and court support personnel. Staff support is provided to the Maryland Judicial Conference, the Conference of Circuit Judges, the Judicial Institute of Maryland, and the Select Committee on Gender Equality. In addition, the Administrative Office of the Courts serves as secretariat to the Appellate and Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commissions. Personnel also are responsible for the complex operation of data processing systems, collec-

tion and analysis of statistics and other management information. The office also assists the Chief Judge in the assignment of active and former judges to cope with case backloads or address shortages of judicial personnel in critical locations.

What follows are some of the details pertaining to certain important activities of the Administrative Office of the Courts during the last twelve months.

## **Judicial Personnel Services**

Judicial Personnel Services provides personnel-related support services to the 24 circuit court clerks' offices, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and court-related agencies. These services include recruitment and selection assistance, compensation and benefits administration, payroll processing, leave accounting, legally-mandated record keeping, employee relations management, and training/staff development.

In-service training was provided for personnel staff in order to broaden their knowledge and understanding of relative human resource topics. The focus of the Cultural Diversity Training Program was to assist employees in exploring their personal attitudes towards differences and developing an understanding of how attitudes affect their interactions with others. A program on employment laws was presented to enable personnel staff to recognize the importance of complying with appropriate employment legislation when performing their job duties. Employees were provided the opportunity to bring a new sense of or-

der to their lives at work and at home by attending the Organizing Your Life and Getting Rid of Clutter Training Program.

To further continue the Judiciary's commitment to preventing on-the-job injuries, two Risk Management Training Programs were held. Back Awareness was the topic of a program to educate employees whose job descriptions involve heavy lifting. Ergonomics training was conducted for Judicial Information Systems' data entry employees. In order to continue to provide quality training, personnel staff have continued to attend various conferences, seminars, and workshops to keep abreast of human resource developments. Additionally, keeping current on employment legislation has enabled the personnel staff to provide the necessary guidance to ensure compliance with appropriate employment laws and to prevent employment liability.

Judicial Personnel Services has continued to utilize computer-based testing for both secretarial and clerical applicants at the Personnel Office and at regional sites throughout the State. Skills that can be tested include: speed typing, data entry, shorthand, letter form, statistical typing, and ten key, as well as the applicants' knowledge of WordPerfect and Microsoft Word. This testing program has provided a concrete tool that is being used to rank candidates based on skill and has resulted in increased confidence by managers when making hiring decisions. In order to improve the quality of service, the applicant testing process was expanded to include primary skills tests. These tests rate applicants on

their abilities in math, editing, proofing, reasoning, and other vital office skills. This service, which also will assist with identifying qualified applicants, will be available in the next fiscal year. In addition, the Personnel Department has responded to requests by various jurisdictions to provide I.D.'s for employees of the clerks' offices.

Abra for Windows, a Human Resource Information System that was installed last year, has allowed faster data entry and greater flexibility in the area of customized report generation. With assistance from the Judicial Information Systems staff, a vendor has been contracted to develop a Windows-based leave accounting system. This software will provide better integration with Abra for Windows (employee data base), allow greater reporting capabilities, increase processing speed, and maintain data in a more manageable/accessible format. The system will be installed and be operational within the coming year.

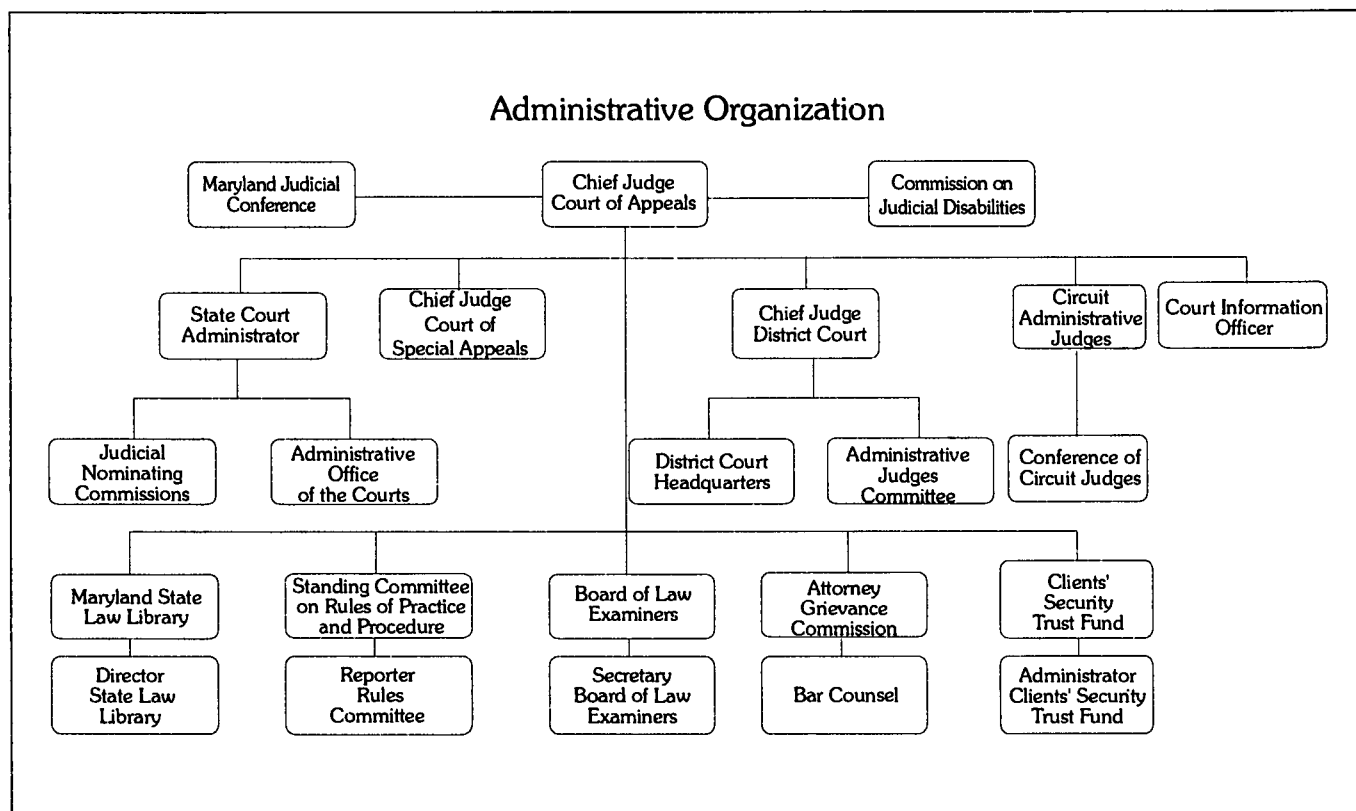
For the second year, employees of the Judiciary were presented service award pins for length of service ranging from five to forty years. As employees proudly wear their lapel pins, they are reminded of the Judiciary's appreciation of its employees. The service awards program provides a means to recognize employees of the Judiciary as they continue in their mission to improve the operations of the courts.

In response to requests from the Clerks of Court to review the allocated grade levels of specific jobs, a Job Classification and Proficiencies Committee was formed in 1995. The function of this committee is to provide input and assistance to the Administrative Office of the Courts Personnel Department with structuring, developing and implementing programs or projects in job leveling and pay delivery mechanisms that have an impact on the circuit courts. The Committee reviewed, tested, and revised the job evaluation tool. To ensure job information was cur-

rent and accurate, employees were asked to provide job-specific information for their current jobs to the Committee for evaluation. The Committee met regularly during the year and completed the evaluations of all jobs in the clerks' offices by March 1997. After the study results were approved, upgrades and reclassifications were implemented. The Committee will continue to work with Clerks of Courts whose offices require restructuring or reorganization of positions.

### **Training and Development**

The Administrative Office of the Courts recognizes training as an investment in the human resources of the Judiciary. Based on an assessment of the organizational, operational, and personal needs of the Judiciary and its employees, four key training programs were presented to 1,260 employees during Fiscal Year 1997. Through the learning process, employees were able to acquire behaviors, concepts, skills, and knowl-



edge essential to the operations of the court system. Effective training programs can result in greater productivity, increased employee effectiveness, fewer mistakes, greater job satisfaction, and lower turnover. One of the training unit's most important objectives is to continue to prepare today's employees for tomorrow's challenges.

From August through October, 1996, fifty half-day sessions of the Resolving Conflict to Improve Customer Service Training Program were delivered to 900 employees. The participants received training on how to approach conflict situations calmly and professionally. The group was given the opportunity to practice conflict resolution skills through role plays and exercises and to learn how to turn uncomfortable feelings into confident interactions. Through the use of this technique, the participants were able to recognize that conflict can produce positive results such as increased productivity, customer satisfaction, improved morale, and effective teamwork.

A Supervisory Update for New Supervisory and Management Personnel was held on October 30, 1996, for 22 participants. The focus of the training was on empowering new supervisors in assuming their leadership roles. Emphasis was placed on recognizing and meeting the challenges of becoming a supervisor. Some of the topics covered in the training were: leadership qualities, employment laws, leave issues, performance standards and evaluations, employment interviewing, delegation, and a policy update. This is the third year this training has been presented to newly hired or appointed supervisors.

Six half-day sessions of a Policies and Procedures Workshop were conducted for the 137 employees of the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County on November 15, 19, and 22, 1996. Policies and procedures regarding the

use of leave, the progressive discipline process, and the business attire guidelines were explained in detail. Supervisors and their employees had the opportunity to clarify the personnel policies and procedures that outline their benefits, rights, and responsibilities at the workplace.

The training unit has continued to provide support, enrichment, and growth for all supervisors and managers through training programs. A Supervisory VI Training Program — Leading by Example — began in June 1997 and will continue with a total of seven sessions to be conducted by mid July. The total number of participants will be 201. The focus of the seven full day sessions was on the supervisor and manager's role regarding cultural diversity and sexual harassment prevention. One of the objectives of the program was to better understand and utilize differences to work and live together through better communication, education, and interaction. The training emphasized that sexual harassment and offensive behaviors that are considered harassing are forms of discrimination and will not be tolerated in the workplace. An overview of the sexual harassment policy was presented and employer/supervisor liability issues were discussed. Training programs of this nature affirm the Judiciary's commitment to its employees to provide a work environment free of all forms of harassment.

### **Judicial Institute of Maryland**

In 1997, the Judicial Institute of Maryland Board of Directors approved several programs designed to meet the ongoing educational needs of Maryland judges. They included 23 continuing judicial education courses, New Trial Judge Orientation, the Family Law Curriculum and, in collaboration with the Ad Hoc Judicial Conference Planning

Committee, the 1997 Maryland Judicial Conference.

Two hundred and twenty-one state judges, representing 91 percent of the active trial and appellate judges, registered for the continuing judicial education courses. Two federal judges and 27 masters also responded to the Institute's invitation to enroll in these courses.

All 23 of the judicial education courses, with the exception of Computers I, Computer Assisted Legal Research (a special Saturday course), Legal Writing, and Legal History, were held at the People's Resource Center in Crownsville. Computers I and Computer Assisted Legal Research were held at the Judicial Information Systems training room in Annapolis, Legal History was presented at the Brice House in Historic Annapolis, and Legal Writing was held in the Fourth Floor Conference Room at the District Court Building in Annapolis.

To assist judges in planning their attendance at Judicial Institute programs, the Institute adopts the practice of scheduling programs during the fall and spring. Accordingly, the courses in 1997 were offered in March, April, September, and October. Of the 23 continuing education courses that were offered, 14 were new, while nine were revised and repeated.

The new courses were Courts Meet the Press, Judicial Ethics: Maryland Interpretations and Applications, Criminal Law Potpourri, New Maryland Rules Governing Special Proceedings, Effectively Handling Small Claims, Managing Cases Involving Persons with Communicable/Contagious Diseases, Guardianships, Legal Update: Significant Supreme Court Decisions and State and Federal Legislation, Handling Complex Litigation: Case Management Techniques, Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, Computers II, Remedies, Business Law Issues Re-

curing in Litigation, and Computer Assisted Legal Research.

Courses revised and repeated were Computers I, Jury Matters: From Selection to Verdict, Products Liability, Legal History, Legal Writing, Critical Issues in Search and Seizure, Impeachment of Witnesses, Handling Discovery Disputes, and Humanities.

Consistent with the Judicial Institute's objective to provide quality instruction to judges, the Institute continues to recruit accomplished instructors who are highly qualified to teach judges. In most cases, Judicial Institute courses are taught by Maryland judges; however, for programs that require specialized skills or expertise, other professionals are recruited and teamed with judges.

The 1997 New Trial Judge Orientation was presented to a class of 21 circuit court and District Court judges on May 12-16 at the Doubletree Inn at the Colonnade in Baltimore City. This mandatory five-day program is presented annually to newly appointed District Court and circuit court judges including those who were advanced from the District Court to the circuit court. The faculty, comprised of Maryland judges, educators, and other professionals, taught the following subjects: The Judicial Challenge, Judicial Ethics, Fair and Equal Treatment, Probation and Parole, Contract Damages, Selected Topics and Issues on Evidence, Landlord/Tenant Housing Issues, Business Law, Jury Instruction, Civil Motions, the Fifth and Sixth Amendments, Assorted Special Proceedings, Sentencing Procedures, Judicial Procedures to Initiate the Civil Commitment, Managing the Criminal Trial, and the Judicial Response to Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence.

The Family Law Curriculum was presented to a class of 13 new appellate and circuit court judges, and 27 domestic relations masters on May 27-29, 1997, at the Doubletree Inn at

the Colonnade. The curriculum, mandatory for circuit court judges, was designed and developed by the Family Law Curriculum Committee in conjunction with a team of Maryland judges, masters, lawyers and family law professionals. This intensive three and a half day program focused on important legal, economic, psychological, and case management issues as they relate to handling family law cases. The educational component of this year's Maryland Judicial Conference, "The Future is Now" was developed and implemented by the Judicial Institute under the guidance of an independent consultant and the Ad Hoc Judicial Conference Planning Committee. Funds were provided by the State Justice Institute through a grant awarded to the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. The grant charged the Committee with the task of developing model rules for computer-generated demonstrative evidence and electronic documentary evidence, and the Judicial Institute with the task of developing an educational program that would serve as a model for other states.

The educational program, presented at the Maryland Judicial Conference, incorporated various technology and associated evidentiary issues and included the following seven sessions: Future of the Maryland Courts, Trial of the Future, Courtroom 21, Model Rules, Maryland Court Technology/Internet, Demonstrative Aids, and Real-Time Court Reporting.

To complete the requirements of the grant, an independent evaluator was hired to assess the educational component and propose recommendations. In addition, a model curriculum was developed, and copies of the materials, including an interactive CD-ROM, were distributed to the State Justice Institute Board of Directors and 49 state law library depositories.

### **Judicial Education and Training Media Projects**

To keep pace with the ever-growing field of video technology, the Judicial Institute continues to upgrade video and editing equipment used to produce its work products. The services of two highly skilled media developers provide the Institute with valuable technical support critical to the production of training videos, compact disks, and audio cassettes.

In addition to providing technical support for New Trial Judge Orientation and the Family Law Curriculum, the media developers videotaped the Judicial Conference "The Future is Now" and the following Judicial Institute programs: Courts Meet the Press, Judicial Ethics: Maryland Interpretations and Applications, Handling Discovery Disputes, New Maryland Rules Governing Special Proceedings, Managing Cases Involving Persons with Communicable/Contagious Diseases, Legal Update: Significant Supreme Court Decisions and State and Federal Legislation, Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, Remedies, and Business Law Issues Recurring in Litigation. All of these works were edited, categorized, and filed in the Judicial Institute library, along with the written materials of each course. Finally, the new entries were recorded in the Judicial Institute's Educational Resource Guide and a newly revised edition was distributed to all of the judges.

### **Judicial Information Systems**

The Judicial Information Systems (JIS) unit of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is responsible for the administration and operation of the Judicial Data Center (JDC) and all automated data systems within the Maryland Judiciary.

During Fiscal Year 1997, implementation of the District Court automated Courtroom Segment was

completed with the installation of the system in Baltimore City and Montgomery and Baltimore Counties. Using this system, courtroom clerks are able to record information directly online into the District Court case management system as events occur within the courtroom.

With completion of the Courtroom Segment, work began on the rewrite of the District Court Commissioner System. This system will enable District Court Commissioners to process cases on a personal computer and to interface with the District Court Criminal and Traffic case management systems. The system currently in place has exceeded its limitations and is in immediate need of improved processing capabilities.

Judicial Information Systems continues to work closely with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) in the implementation of the Arrest Booking System (ABS) as it is being deployed in jurisdictions outside the City of Baltimore.

During Fiscal Year 1997, work began on the analysis phase for a total system rewrite of both the District Court Criminal and District Court Traffic case management systems. These systems, which run on the JDC mainframe, are approaching 20 years of age and are in need of modernization. It is anticipated that this project will take approximately two (2) years to complete.

Throughout the fiscal year, work accelerated dramatically on the Uniform Court System/Maryland (UCS/MD), which is the Case Management System (CMS) being installed in the circuit courts and the Montgomery County Juvenile Court.

As of the end of the fiscal year, six (6) counties had been equipped with the Civil Module of UCS/MD. Those counties are Baltimore, Charles, Howard, Allegany, St. Mary's and Washington. It is planned to install the Civil Module in Calvert, Wi-

comico and Garrett Counties before the end of Calendar Year 1997. Deployment of the Civil Module will continue until all circuit courts planned for implementation are completed.

Work is proceeding on the conversion of the current PROMIS automated Criminal System in Baltimore County for inclusion of that data into the UCS/MD system. While that work is in progress, it is planned to implement the base Criminal Module in Charles County for the purpose of piloting that module without conversion. This will provide the ability to accelerate deployment of the Criminal Module to other jurisdictions.

During the last quarter of the fiscal year, work was fully underway for deployment of the Juvenile Module of UCS/MD in the District Court for Montgomery County. Since this is the first location in which the Juvenile Module is being deployed, it will serve as the model for future deployment.

The other area of heavy concentration for UCS/MD has been in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. In addition to the Civil Module, this effort has addressed the Differentiated Case Management (DCM) component of the system. As of the end of the fiscal year, work was nearing completion with training scheduled to begin within 30 to 60 days of the new fiscal year.

During Fiscal Year 1997, the Electronic Land Record Optical Imagery (ELROI) system being piloted in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County proved to be a success. This system scans, indexes and stores digital images of land record documents on optical disk located in the Land Records Department. Those images are then available for viewing and printing by clerk personnel and the general public, such as title abstractors, via retrieval workstations located in the Land Records Department. In addition, images may be accessed via the JIS

dial-up system and a copy may then be sent via facsimile phone line to the requestor. With the completion of the pilot in Prince George's County, work is now underway to deploy the ELROI system in other circuit courts across the State, the first of which will be Harford County.

Work was completed during Fiscal Year 1997 on the project which "back loaded" COTT Corporation Land Record index information into the Court Automated Indexing System (CAIS). The CAIS system now contains all index records, for the 20 participating counties, from as far back as those counties may have begun recording information with COTT Corporation.

In keeping with AOC's commitment to technology, the Judiciary Home Page, use of the Internet, and dial-up access was expanded during the fiscal year. Persons desiring to obtain information pertaining to the Maryland Judiciary may now do so in a variety of ways. In addition, the information that is available via these methods is continuing to expand as electronic systems are deployed within the Judiciary.

Another major step forward in providing judicial information to our users is the connection of District Court Headquarters and District Court Administrative Clerks to the Judicial Wide Area Network (WAN). This network is the communication backbone which links all Judicial agencies and allows for the electronic transmission of data from location to location.

As in years past, the use of office automation continues to expand at a very rapid rate. As the need to provide more efficient service to court users increases, the Maryland Judiciary continues to meet the demand by providing the courts with numerous computers, printers and software packages. Some examples are Electronic Mail (E-Mail), computer-based Cash Receipting system, computer-

based personnel training programs, word processing and spread sheet systems. It is anticipated this growth will continue as improved technology emerges.

### **Circuit Court Management Services**

The Circuit Court Management Services unit operates under the direct supervision of the Deputy State Court Administrator. The Unit was formed to assist in the oversight of the circuit court clerks' offices pursuant to an electoral mandate that transferred responsibility for the management of these offices to the Judiciary, effective January 1, 1991. This unit has continued with its efforts to bring procedural uniformity within the circuit court clerks' offices in response to the directives of the General Assembly and the Legislative Auditors.

During Fiscal Year 1997, Circuit Court Management Services continued to coordinate procurement of workstations in clerks' offices throughout the State. Additionally, projects to convert filing systems to open shelving were continued and completed during this fiscal year.

Circuit Court Management Services provided staff support to the Foster Care Grant Committee, the Task Force on Interpreters and the Advisory Committee on Interpreters. Relative to the work with the Foster Care Grant Committee, Circuit Court Management Services prepared an extensive assessment of how the Judiciary process cases that involve children in Foster Care. The results of this assessment have been recorded in a report, "The Maryland Judiciary's Foster Care Improvement Project." The extensive efforts of the Foster Care Grant Committee are reflected in the 37 recommendations contained in the report regarding issues such as training, statistics, representation and the CINA statute. As a result of the completed work on the assessment, Chief Judge Robert

M. Bell has appointed a new Foster Care Court Improvement Committee to implement the recommendations. The work of the Task Force on Interpreters and the Advisory Committee on Interpreters continue to address the needs of the Judiciary's Court Interpreter Program. The mission of the program, to address the court-related needs of the limited and non-English speaking population, as well as the needs of the hearing-impaired is the Judiciary's continuous focus. During Fiscal Year 1997, the Administrative Office of the Courts, through Circuit Court Management Services, sponsored five non-language specific orientation workshops. These workshops are designed to train students of interpreting at the most basic level and provide an orientation to the court interpreting profession, informing the participants of the role of the interpreter and the knowledge, skills and abilities they must possess to practice the profession. In response to the volume of interpreters pursuing language proficiency, the efforts of the Task Force on Interpreters and the Advisory Committee on Interpreters are highlighted in the redesign of the delivery system of the State Court Language Certification Examination using CD-ROM technology.

The Administrative Office of the Courts, through Circuit Court Management Services, also provided staff support to the Ad Hoc Committee on Business Licenses which was formed to provide Maryland's existing and emerging business clients with a user-friendly, efficient and responsive system for license acquisition and renewal. This committee commissioned a study to evaluate the business licence process and to explore the feasibility of designing a one-stop business license network. Currently, the Committee is engaged in the development of an electronic one-stop licensing process consistent with the mission to increase accessibility to services for the consumer. A

consumer education initiative from the Committee was the publication of a brochure to provide potential entrepreneurs with the basic requirements for starting a business in Maryland, "Maryland's Checklist for New Businesses." This checklist has been widely distributed throughout Maryland and is available through the Judiciary's web site.

The Circuit Court Management Services Unit continues to be involved in improving the operations of the Land Records operation of the circuit court clerks' offices. Such improvements have been the successful piloting of Optical Imaging in Prince George's County which has streamlined the recording, indexing and searching processes. Efforts continue in re-filming to improve microfilm quality and repair to existing land records books. Circuit Court Management Services has continued with its efforts to convert copying systems in land records departments to self-service debit card systems. The debit card system has been successfully placed in 21 jurisdictions.

Staff support also was provided to the Juvenile Law Committee and the Criminal Law Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference, as well as serving as the Judiciary's representative on the Criminal Justice Information System Advisory Board.

### **Conference of Circuit Court Clerks**

The Conference of Circuit Court Clerks was constituted at the direction of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals in November, 1996. This body is composed of 11 members, including an employee of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Additionally, a member of the Administrative Office of the Courts serves as Secretary to the Conference. The mission of the Conference is to act as liaison between the offices of the Clerks of the Circuit Courts, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, and the Administrative Office of the Courts, and to promote



and improve proficiency in the offices of the circuit court clerks through long range strategic planning and training. The Conference held its first meeting in March, 1997. One of the initial efforts of the Conference was to evaluate the results of the Circuit Court Clerks' Compensation Study. The Conference forwarded its recommendations to the Chief Judge for assistance with an implementation strategy. Prospectively, the Conference will be reviewing how its constitution and intended mission can be accomplished.

### **Quality Assurance Unit**

The Quality Assurance Unit of Circuit Court Management Services is responsible for monitoring the accuracy of the filing statistics reported by the circuit courts. The Unit continues to validate the civil, criminal, and juvenile information that is reported to them by each jurisdiction. Further, staff visit jurisdictions to review with the clerk's staff statistical reporting requirements, as well as address any statistical reporting anomalies. Currently, the Quality Assurance Unit is exploring the reporting of circuit court filing statistics from the Uniform Courts System. An additional focus is being placed on compliance with Federal and State reporting requirements, as well as receiving filing statistics from the Paternity Department of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

### **Sentencing Guidelines**

In the Maryland circuit courts, sentences in most criminal cases are determined using recommended guidelines, which define sentencing ranges based upon information specific to the nature of an offense and criminal history of an offender. A statute enabling the Judiciary to institute voluntary guidelines was enacted in 1983. The Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Board, consisting of circuit court judges and representatives from State criminal justice agencies and the private bar, was

created in 1979 to develop and implement guidelines in four pilot jurisdictions. Maryland Sentencing Guidelines was established within the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide staff support to the Advisory Board and compile sentencing data.

Maryland Sentencing Guidelines provide comprehensive training in guideline applications to circuit court judicial personnel, as well as staff of the State's Attorneys, Public Defenders, and Division of Parole and Probation. The Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Manual is issued on behalf of the Advisory Board and used by the circuit courts and State criminal justice agencies to reference the various sentencing matrices and Sentencing Guidelines offenses. An orientation on use of the Manual is provided to each newly appointed judge. Similar instruction, including a training video, also is afforded to employees of the circuit courts, State's Attorneys, Public Defenders, and Division of Parole and Probation.

Supervised by an Assistant Administrator in the Circuit Court Management Services Unit of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Maryland Sentencing Guidelines processes worksheets which are used to produce statistical reports on sentencing patterns and anomalies, as well as compliance rates used to revise the Sentencing Guidelines.

As Chair of the Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Board, Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan directed the 1996 revision of Appendix A of the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Manual by including the statutory changes into the Manual. The Sentencing Guidelines Revision Committee, chaired by Judge Eugene Lerner, has recommended new revisions to the Sentencing Guidelines to be presented to the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Board in 1997. These recommendations involve revisions to offense seriousness

categories, matrix cell amendments, a reduction in the number of judges' reasons for departure from the Sentencing Guidelines to assist in future revisions, and additional statutory updates to the Manual.

Currently, the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Department has revised its software for the collection of data from the Sentencing Guidelines work sheets submitted by circuit court judges. In addition, the software can assist those users of the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines in the calculation of guidelines, as well as generate completed guidelines worksheets for one convicted count to criminal events involving multiple convicted counts. The software has components for table maintenance of the software (e.g., update offenses) and production of reports on sentencing statistics and Sentencing Guidelines compliance rates. As the staff of the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines "beta tests" this software and additional resources are secured, it is hoped that the software will become available to its users.

### **Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement**

The Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement (CRA) provides for reimbursement by the Federal Government for Title IV-D child support services that are supplied by the circuit court clerks' offices. Title IV-D child support cases are filed by the State's Attorneys' Offices or special counsel appointed by the State Attorney General. The CRA is a contract between the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Child Support Enforcement Administration of the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

The Federal Government, working through the offices of the Child Support Enforcement Administration in Maryland, reimburses the State's General Fund for 66 percent of a circuit court clerk employee's salary for the time dedicated to child support tasks. It also reimburses 66

percent of the costs for postage, supplies, photocopies, and other related items. This figure has remained the same for the past four years that the Administrative Office of the Courts has supervised this contract.

Employees of the circuit court clerks' offices assist with the annual collection of data for the time and task studies; monthly collection of child support establishment and enforcement data; and monthly costs for expenditures. Their cooperation is the key to the success of the CRA.

### ***The Select Committee on Gender Equality***

The Select Committee on Gender Equality, a joint committee of the Maryland Judiciary and the Maryland State Bar Association, is chaired by Pamela J. White, Esq.

The 21 judge and attorney members of the Committee serve on eight Subcommittees: Professionalism, Complaints, Domestic Violence, Legislation, Family Law Issues, Judicial Nominating Commissions and Judicial Applications, Role of Women in Law Schools, and Women in Law Firms. The full Committee met five times during Fiscal Year 1997. The Subcommittees also met frequently during the year.

Members of the Select Committee were active during the year refining the Professionalism Course for new attorneys, monitoring legislation, and conducting training for various groups. Last September, several members delivered an educational program to the Administrative Law Judges. Most recently, the Select Committee delivered a section of the orientation program to both the Commission on Judicial Disabilities and the review panels of the Attorney Grievance Commission. The Select Committee on Gender Equality is committed to the importance of education as a means to address and resolve questions of gender fairness.

### ***Fiscal Management and Procurement***

Fiscal Management and Procurement prepares and monitors the annual Maryland Judiciary budget, excluding the District Court of Maryland. This budget preparation and monitoring function includes the budgets for all 24 circuit court clerks' offices. All accounts payable for the Judiciary are processed through this office, including all the clerks' offices. Accounting records for revenues and accounts payable are kept by the staff in cooperation with the General Accounting Division of the State Comptroller's Office. In addition, the Office prepares monthly reports showing budget balances and expenditures for distribution to the clerks' offices. The working fund is also the responsibility of the Fiscal Management and Procurement staff. Records are maintained in order for the Legislative Auditor to perform audits on the fiscal activities of the Judiciary.

General supplies and equipment are purchased by this office. Staff members also prepare and solicit competitive bids on equipment, furniture, and supplies. This activity now includes purchasing of forms, equipment and other supplies for the circuit court clerks' offices and Judicial Information Services, as well as bid preparation for large projects. Bulk purchasing and blanket purchase orders of forms, copy paper, copy machine supplies, and office stationary have been established. These procedures have resulted in greater savings and inventory control.

In addition to handling this expanded purchasing activity, efforts are also being made to develop as much uniformity as possible among the various clerks' offices to effectuate cost savings. During Fiscal Year 1997, a statewide bid for a maintenance contract for microfilm equipment was awarded. This contract

streamlined the process of providing prompt and efficient service, as well as improved the evaluation of the equipment throughout the circuit courts and related agencies.

An automated inventory control system was established in 1987 for all furniture and equipment used by the Maryland Judiciary. This system uses a bar code attached to all equipment and furniture. Inventory is completed with a scanning device which automatically counts the items, producing financial totals that are required by the State Comptroller's Office. Effective July 1, 1992, the clerks' offices were incorporated into this system. The Fiscal Management Unit, therefore, currently maintains the inventory for each clerk's office. The inventory control staff scan the furniture and equipment that has been bar coded and return the equipment to Fiscal Management and Procurement. The new data provided by the scanner is then compared to the existing inventory list. Discrepancies are reported to the clerk's office and resolved before the inventory is certified as complete.

When Fiscal Management and Procurement staff assumed responsibility for functions previously handled by the circuit court clerks' offices, numerous internal organizational changes were required. One of these was the addition of an internal auditing function. In this capacity, staff auditors visit the clerks' offices, performing internal audits, follow-up audits to the Legislative Auditors and other data-gathering/record-keeping activities.

The clerks' offices have historically collected funds which are held in reserve until the court orders disposition. The internal auditors, along with other fiscal unit employees, now monitor these special fund monies. In addition, data is compiled for the Comptroller of the Treasury for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Fiscal Management and Procurement also monitors and com-

piles monthly financial data for the Federal Child Support Administration Grant. This grant includes 23 counties and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Due to the extensive services provided, Montgomery County operates under a separate Grant. Responsibility for this program requires preparation of 48 Federal budgets, in addition to the budget prepared for each county. Invoices are prepared each quarter for submission to the Department of Human Resources for reimbursement by the Federal government. These invoices are detailed compilations of salaries and hours for each employee participating in the program statewide, as well as, summaries of costs for supplies and other expenses.

Another program monitored by the Fiscal Management and Procurement is the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program. Staff members oversee grants and monitor quarterly expenditure reports, as well as, prepare a year-end annual report of CASA Statewide activities for the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

In addition, the Fiscal Management and Procurement Unit is involved in developing and implementing an automated cash register system and an accounts receivable system for the circuit court clerks' offices. These programs are being prepared to help the clerks' offices provide faster more accurate services for the public. Both the development and the installation phases of the automated cash register system have been completed. Now that computer-based cash registers have been installed in all counties, an accompanying accounting software package has been developed. This too, has been installed in most offices. The accounts receivable program is available to the clerks' offices upon request.

Other responsibilities include distribution of payroll checks for all Judiciary personnel except District

Courts and circuit courts; maintaining lease agreements for all leased property; monitoring the safety and maintenance records of the Judiciary automobile fleet; and performing assignments as directed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

### **Internal Audit Department**

The Internal Audit Department was established as an independent appraisal function within the Administrative Office of the Courts to assist the clerks of the circuit courts in the effective discharge of their duties. The Internal Audit Department consists of six staff members: an audit manager, two lead auditors and three staff auditors. Of the six current staff members, four are Certified Public Accountants, two having achieved dual certification as Certified Internal Auditors. The Department has endeavored to develop a comprehensive audit program to provide the clerks' offices with analyses, appraisals, recommendations, counsel and information concerning the activities reviewed.

The Internal Audit Department provides compliance, operational, financial and/or follow-up audits for all twenty-four jurisdictions. The results are communicated through an exit conference and followed up by a formal written report. In addition, technical support is provided during legislative audits and exit conferences and assistance is provided with recommendations to strengthen internal control. The Internal Audit Department has provided professional input into the development of policies and procedures through committee participation.

Staff members have further developed their professional audit skills through attendance in seminars, conferences and membership in professional societies. Continuing professional education has included supervisory, technical, management and on the job training to develop the knowledge, skills and disciplines

of all staff members of the Internal Audit Department.

## **The District Court of Maryland**

Fiscal Year 1997 brought new leadership to the District Court. Judge Martha F. Rasin, who was appointed to the District Court in Anne Arundel County in 1989 and who later served as its administrative judge, was appointed by then Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy to become the second Chief Judge of the District Court, replacing Chief Judge Robert F. Sweeney. Later, Chief Judge Rasin appointed Patricia L. Platt to become Chief Clerk, the Court's top non-judicial position, upon the retirement of Edward L. Utz. Chief Judge Rasin and Chief Clerk Platt will shape the Court's future as it enters a new era.

A new era for the District Court necessarily involves technology and the Court is turning its eyes forward, looking to new programs and methods to achieve the orderly handling of the Court's huge volume of cases. The future is best charted by first understanding the history of the Court's experience with technology during its first quarter century.

On an autumn day in 1973, 1,200 angry citizens, traffic citations in hand, attempted to crowd into a single district courtroom in an office building in Oxon Hill, Maryland. This scheduling nightmare, which resulted in court remaining in session until almost midnight, was brought about because of the long-existing statewide practice of every officer being assigned one court date per month and inserting the next month's date in each citation.

The oil embargo of Arab countries in 1973, and the resulting gasoline shortage, caused the establishment of a nationwide maximum speed limit of 55 miles per hour. The growth of cases in the Oxon Hill courtroom occurred because of a mammoth effort by police

to enforce that speed limit on the Washington Beltway and the major arteries leading to and from that heavily traveled road.

To prevent a recurrence of such a problem, the Chief Judge appointed a special committee of five judges to examine the various computer techniques for docketing motor vehicle cases that were then in use in other parts of the country. That committee reviewed traffic processing systems in Chicago, Miami, New York, and Detroit. Shortly thereafter, with a grant from the National Highway Safety Administration, planning began for a prototype operation for computerized docketing of all motor vehicle cases in the District Court of Maryland.

The system that was ultimately devised did away with the practice of having an officer insert an unpredictable number of trial dates on citations, and further did away with the practice of having all citations forwarded to the District courtrooms throughout the State - which practice, it should be noted, caused a storage problem for the more than 4,000,000 citations that were collected in the Court's first six years of operation. Under the new system, a citation delivered to the motorist did not show a court date, but instead gave directions as to how to pay the fine by mail, where appropriate, and directed that all such payments go to a single location in Annapolis rather than to 40 different courthouses.

For those who chose not to pay the fine, trials were scheduled by computer, which was programmed to produce a docket of no more than a certain number of cases. The computer also was programmed to mail trial date notices to defendants, police officers, attorneys, and witnesses.

A system of scheduling officers for court was developed based on the number of citations written by each officer. Those who wrote a high number of tickets were given as

many monthly court dates as necessary to accommodate the citations issued. Lighter writers were given fewer court days.

This system, known as the Maryland Automated Traffic Systems (MATS), was implemented in Montgomery County in November, 1977, and over the next several years it became statewide. With each passing year it was refined to enable a computer-to-computer transfer of case dispositions to the Motor Vehicle Administration and to provide for simplified fiscal accounting for the tens of millions of dollars that flowed through the system annually.

The success of the MATS system quickly led to the development of a similar system for processing criminal cases, the Maryland District Court Criminal System (MDCCS) in 1981, which system was extended in 1989 to totally computerize commissioner operations. The District Court's computerized operations achieved total implementation in 1995 when the courtroom segment was developed, immeasurably lessening paper processing and hand tallying by courtroom clerks and other clerical staff.

In 1990, long before the District Court computer docketing techniques achieved their maximum level of efficiency, IBM described District Court operations in a national brochure as being on the cutting edge of computerized case docketing techniques. The system also has won praise from the National Center for State Courts, and all others who have studied its operation. Perhaps of all that could be said about the MATS, MDCCS, and the District Court's computer operations combined can best be summed up in a simple statistic. When the District Court opened in 1971, it had a total caseload of approximately 700,000 cases and a total clerical complement of approximately 600 people. Today, twenty-six years later, the Court's caseload has tripled, with a

yearly caseload of 2,021,599, while the nonjudicial complement has grown by less than 50 percent.

In the coming era of District Court service to the citizens of Maryland, no doubt computerization and technological advances will move at high speed. The Court must harness and utilize all that is available to keep it efficient, while never forgetting the importance of making sure that citizens are well served one at a time.

### **Assignment of Judges**

Article IV, §18(b) of the Maryland Constitution provides the Chief Judge with the authority to make temporary assignments of active judges to the appellate and trial courts. Also, pursuant to Article IV, §3A and §1-302 of the Courts Article, the Chief Judge, with approval of the Court of Appeals, recalls former judges to sit in courts throughout the State. Their use enhances the Judiciary's ability to cope with growing caseloads, extended illnesses, and judicial vacancies. It minimizes the need to assign full time judges, thus disrupting schedules and delaying case disposition.

Pursuant to the Maryland Rules, Circuit Administrative Judges assigned active judges within their circuits and exchanged judges between circuits upon designation by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. Further, by designating District Court judges as circuit court judges, vital assistance to these courts was provided during Fiscal Year 1997. This assistance consisted of 26 judge days. The Chief Judge of the District Court, pursuant to constitutional authority, made assignments internal to that Court to address backlogs, unfilled vacancies and extended illnesses. During Fiscal Year 1997, these assignments totaled 362 judge days. At the appellate level, the use of available judicial manpower continued. Caseload in the Court of Special Appeals is being addressed by limitations on oral argument, assistance by

a central professional staff, and a pre-hearing settlement conference. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals exercised his authority by designating appellate and trial judges to sit in both appellate courts to hear specific cases. Finally, a number of judges of the Court of Special Appeals were designated to different circuit courts for various lengths of time to assist those courts in handling the workload.

During Fiscal Year 1997, the Chief Judge recalled 25 former circuit court judges and 5 former appellate judges to serve in the circuit courts for approximately 1,186 judge days for the reasons given. In addition, 18 former District Court judges, six former circuit court judges, and one former appellate judge were re-

called to sit in that court totaling approximately 1,298 judge days. Twelve former judges were recalled to assist both the Court of Appeals and the Court of Special Appeals for a combined total of 372.4 judge days.

### ***Court Information Office***

In this year's report to the Judicial Conference, the Committee on Public Awareness made several recommendations. Included among the recommendations unanimously adopted by the Conference was the establishment of the Court Information Office.

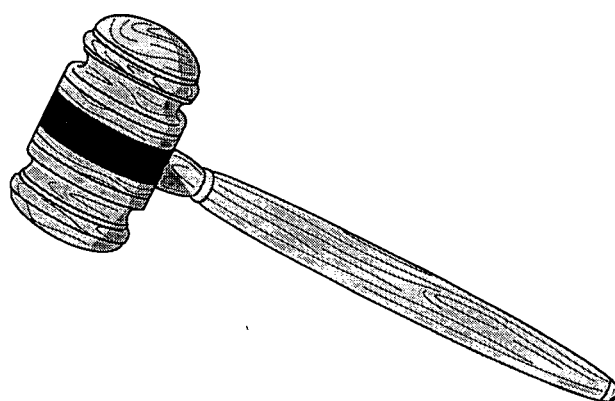
The Court Information Office, which became operational in June, is responsible for planning, designing and executing programs to inform

and educate the public about the services, programs and activities of the Judiciary. These activities will continue to be coordinated with the Committee on Public Awareness.

Other recommendations adopted by the Judicial Conference were the expansion of the Judicial Ride-Along Program (currently open to legislators) to include both public and private local officials; development of educational brochures for the public; and formalization of community outreach programs, including a speaker's bureau. Projects to be undertaken by the Court Information Office include the implementation of the items adopted by the Judicial Conference, as well as a Judiciary newsletter and educational programs for cable access television.



# *Court-Related Units*



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## *Court-Related Units*

### **Board of Law Examiners**

In Maryland, the various courts were originally authorized to examine persons seeking to be admitted to the practice of law. The examination of attorneys remained a function of the courts until 1898 when the State Board of Law Examiners was created (Chapter 139, Laws of 1898). The Board is presently composed of seven lawyers appointed by the Court of Appeals.

The Board and its staff administer bar examinations twice annually during the last weeks of February and July. Each is a two-day examination of not more than twelve hours nor less than nine hours of writing time.

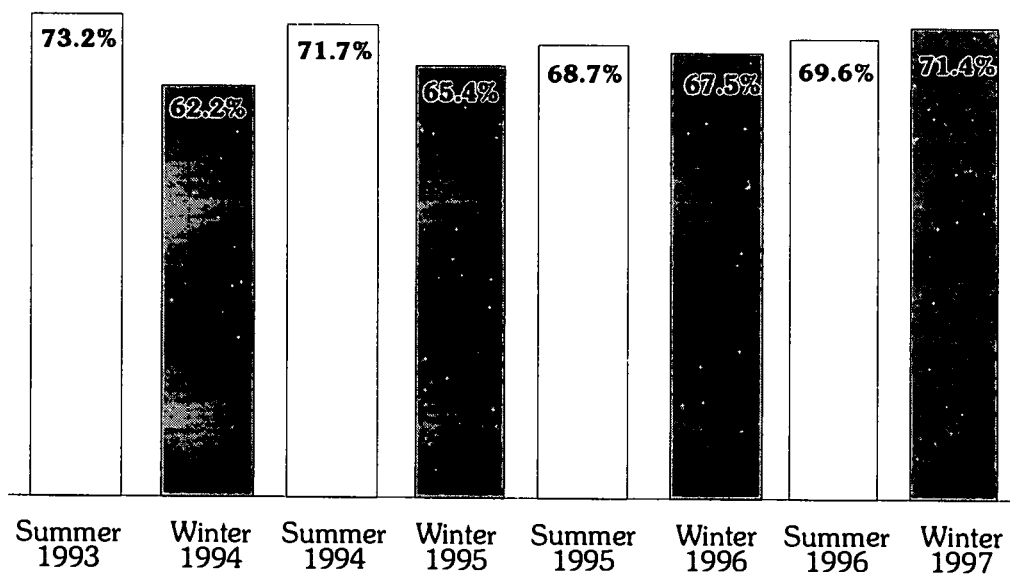
Commencing with the summer 1972 examination and pursuant to

rules adopted by the Court of Appeals, the Board adopted, as part of the overall examination, the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE). This is the nationally recognized law examination consisting of multiple-choice questions and answers, prepared and graded under the direction of the National Conference of Bar Examiners. The MBE test generally is administered on the second day of the examination. The first day is devoted to the traditional essay examination, prepared and graded by the Board. The MBE test is now used in fifty-one jurisdictions. The states not using the MBE are Indiana, Louisiana, and Washington. It is a six-hour test that covers six subjects: contracts, criminal law, evidence, real property, torts and constitutional law.

Maryland does not participate in the administration of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) prepared under the direction of the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

Pursuant to the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar, the subjects covered by the Board's test (essay examination) shall be within, but need not include, all of the following subject areas: agency, business associations, commercial transactions, constitutional law, contracts, criminal law and procedure, evidence, family law, Maryland civil procedure, property, and torts. Single questions on the essay examination may encompass more than one subject area and subjects are not specifically labeled on the examination paper.

PERCENT OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES TAKING THE BAR EXAMINATION



### The State Board of Law Examiners

Jonathan A. Azrael, Esquire; Chairman, Baltimore County Bar & Baltimore City Bar  
 John F. Mudd, Esquire; Charles County Bar  
 Robert H. Reinhart, Esquire; Allegany County Bar  
 Christopher B. Kehoe, Esquire; Talbot County Bar  
 Robert L. Bloom, Esquire; Baltimore County Bar, Monumental City Bar  
 Maurene Epps Webb, Esquire; Prince George's County Bar  
 Katherine D. Savage, Esquire; Montgomery County Bar

Results of examinations given by the State Board of Law Examiners during Fiscal Year 1997 are as follows:

Examination	Number of Candidates	Total Successful Candidates	Number of Candidates Taking First Time	Number of Candidates Passing First Time*
<b>JULY 1996</b>	1,587	1,106 (69.6%)	1,370	1,035 (75.5%)
Graduates				
University of Baltimore	258	172 (66.6%)	221	163 (73.7%)
University of Maryland	214	172 (80.3%)	198	164 (82.8%)
Out-of-State Law Schools	1,115	762 (68.3%)	951	708 (74.4%)
<b>FEBRUARY 1997</b>	784	560 (71.4%)	420	333 (79.2%)
Graduates				
University of Baltimore	132	96 (72.7%)	56	47 (83.9%)
University of Maryland	70	49 (70.0%)	30	25 (83.3%)
Out-of-State Law Schools	582	415 (71.3%)	334	261 (78.1%)

\*Percentages are based upon the number of first-time applicants.

Rule 11 of the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Maryland adopted by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, June 28, 1990, effective August 1, 1990, requires all persons recommended for bar admission to complete a course on legal professionalism during the period between the announcement of the examination results and the scheduled bar admission ceremony. This course is administered by the Maryland State Bar Association, Inc., and was implemented beginning with the February 1992 examinations.

The results of the examinations given during Fiscal Year 1997 are as follows: a total of 1,587 applicants sat for the July 1996 examination with 1,106 (69.6 percent) obtaining a passing grade, while 784 sat for the February 1997 examination with 560 (71.4 percent) being successful.

Passing percentages for the two previous fiscal years are as follows: July 1994, 71.7 percent; February 1995, 65.4 percent; July 1995, 68.7 percent; February 1996, 67.5 percent.

In addition to administering two regular bar examinations per year, the Board also processes applications for admission filed under Rule 13 which governs out-of-state attorney applicants who must take and pass an attorney examination. That examination is an essay test limited in scope and subject matter to the rules in Maryland which govern practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases and also the Rules of Professional Conduct. The test is of three hours' duration and is administered on the same day as the essay test for the regular bar examination.

A total of 103 applicants took the Attorney Examination administered in July 1996. Out of this number, 90 passed. This represents a passing rate of 87.3 percent.

In February 1997, 115 applicants took the examination. Out of this number, 104 passed, representing a passing rate of 90.4 percent.

### Rules Committee

Under Article IV, Section 18 (a) of the Maryland Constitution, the Court of Appeals is empowered to regulate and revise the practice and procedure in, and the judicial administration of, the courts of this State; and under Annotated Code of Maryland, Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, §13-301, the Court of Appeals may appoint "a standing committee of lawyers, judges, and other persons competent in judicial

practice, procedure or administration" to assist the Court in the exercise of its rule-making power. The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, often referred to simply as the Rules Committee, was originally appointed in 1946 to succeed an ad hoc Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure created in 1940. Its members meet regularly to consider proposed amendments and additions to the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure and submit recommendations for change to the Court of Appeals.

Completion of the comprehensive reorganization and revision of the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure continues to be the primary goal of the Rules Committee. Phase I of this project culminated with the adoption by the Court of Appeals of Titles 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure, which became effective July 1, 1984. Phase II of the project began with the adoption of Title 8, dealing with practice and procedure in the Court of Appeals and Court of Special Appeals, which became effective July 1, 1988; Title 6, dealing with practice and procedure in the orphans' courts, which became effective January 1, 1991; Title 7, dealing with appellate and other judicial review in the circuit courts, which became effective July 1, 1993; and Title 5, containing a code of evidence, which became effective July 1, 1994.

With the adoption of new Titles 9 through 16, effective January 1, 1997, the reorganization and revision project is nearing completion. All of the rules have been revised, except the rules now located in Title 9, Chapter 200 (Divorce, Annulment, and Alimony), Title 11 (Juvenile Causes), and Title 16 (Courts, Judges, and Attorneys). These rules were transferred, without readoption and without revision except as to internal cross references, to the new titles and renumbered accordingly.

Work on the substantive revision of the transferred rules remains to be completed by the Rules Committee.

During the past year, the Rules Committee submitted to the Court of Appeals certain rules changes and additions considered necessary. The One Hundred Thirty-Third Report, published in the Maryland Register, Vol. 23, Issue 19 (September 13, 1996), contained proposed new Rules 923 and 11-501 and proposed amendments to Rules 16-106, 1-202, 1-203, 2-509, 4-265, 16-104, 16-304, 2-125, 3-125, 16-109, 2-327, 2-613, 2-632, 3-632, 2-645, 3-645, 4-243, 4-311, 4-312, 4-327, 4-331, 6-210, 6-302, 6-317, 7-112, 7-207, 8-112, 8-504, 8-206, 8-205, 8-501, 8-602, and Rules 1.7 and 8.4 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The Report also contained proposed amendments to Rules BU11, BV1, BV18, 1228, 1231, and 1232, which were renumbered, effective January 1, 1997, as Rules 16-611, 16-701, 16-718, 16-811, 16-813, and 16-814, respectively.

The principal aspects of the proposed rules changes contained in the One Hundred Thirty-Third Report were:

(1) Amendments to Rule 16-106 and to eight other rules conform the rules dealing with legal holidays to the schedule of employee holidays set forth in 1996 Md. Laws, Chapter 347 (Code, State Personnel and Pensions Article, §9-201).

(2) New Rules 11-501 and 923 are designed to implement 1996 Md. Laws, Chapters 595 and 596, which provide that petitions to terminate parental rights and related adoption proceedings that follow a CINA finding are to be filed in juvenile court.

(3) Proposed amendments to Rule 4-311 are in response to *State v. Gorwell*, 339 Md. 203 (1995).

(4) Amendments to Rule 4-312 preclude jury lists from containing a juror's street address or box number.

(5) Amendments to Rules 8-112 and 8-504 address problems with type size and readability of briefs that have arisen because of the advent of computer-generated briefs.

(6) Amendments to Rule 8-206 allow the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals to hold scheduling conferences with counsel to discuss administrative matters not relating to the merits of the case without being automatically recused from later sitting on the argument panel under the prehearing conference rule.

(7) Amendments to Rule 8-602 (b) allow the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals or the Court of Special Appeals to dismiss an appeal, subject to review by the requisite panel of judges on a motion to reconsider, if the brief or record extract does not comply with the style and content requirements of the Rules.

(8) Additions to the Comments to Rules 1.7 and 8.4 of the Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct make certain sexual relationships between lawyers and clients and sexual misconduct or harassment by lawyers impermissible.

By Order dated September 24, 1996, the Court of Appeals adopted new Rule 923 on an emergency basis, effective October 1, 1996. That Order was published in the Maryland Register, Vol. 23, Issue 21 (October 11, 1996).

At an open meeting on December 9, 1996, the Court of Appeals made modifications to certain of the proposed rules changes. By Order dated December 10, 1996, the Court, on an emergency basis, effective January 1, 1997, rescinded Rule 923, adopted new Rule 11-501, and adopted the amendments to Rules 16-106, 1-202, 1-203, 2-509, 4-265, 16-104, 16-304, 2-125, 3-125, 16-109, 6-210, 6-302, 6-317, 16-611, 16-701, 16-718, 16-811, 16-813, and 16-814. By that Order, the Court also adopted the amendments to Rules 2-327, 2-613, 2-632, 3-632, 2-645, 3-645, 4-243, 4-312, 4-327, 4-

331, 7-112, 7-207, 8-112, 8-504, 8-206, 8-205, 8-501, and 8-602 and Rules 1.7 and 8.4 of the Maryland Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct, effective July 1, 1997, and rejected the proposed amendments to Rule 4-311. That Order was published in the Maryland Register, Vol. 24, Issue 2 (January 17, 1997).

In its June 10, 1996 Order adopting the Rules Committee's One Hundred Thirty-Second Report, as amended by the Court, the Court di-

rected the Committee to consider the rules in Title 15, Chapter 200 (Contempt) in light of *Lynch v. Lynch*, 342 Md. 509 (1996) and report to the Court any recommended rules changes in light of that decision. A Supplement to the One Hundred Thirty-Second Report, dated October 31, 1996, contained amendments to Rule 15-207 that allow a court to make a finding of contempt based on evidence of an ability to pay spousal or child support during the period preceding the hearing,

couple that finding with a purge provision and, when appropriate, include in its order directions that the obligor make specific payments in the future or take other specific actions to enable the obligor to make those payments. An amendment to Rule 15-201 adds a cross reference to *Lynch*. In addition, amendments to Rules 15-203, 15-204, 15-206, and 15-208 change the words "punish" and "punishment" to "sanction" and the designation "defendant" to "alleged contemnor" or "contem-

### The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

#### Hon. Alan M. Wilner, Chairman, Court of Special Appeals

Lowell R. Bowen, Esq.  
Baltimore City Bar

Prof. Robert R. Bowie  
Talbot County Bar; *Emeritus*

Albert D. Brault, Esq.  
Montgomery County Bar

Robert L. Dean, Esq.  
Deputy State's Attorney, Montgomery County

Bayard Z. Hochberg, Esq.  
Baltimore County Bar

H. Thomas Howell, Esq.  
Baltimore County Bar

Hon. G. R. Hovey Johnson  
Circuit Court for Prince George's County

Harry S. Johnson, Esq.  
Baltimore City Bar

Hon. Joseph H. H. Kaplan  
Administrative Judge, Circuit Court for Baltimore City

Richard M. Karceski, Esq.  
Baltimore County Bar

Robert D. Klein, Esq.  
Anne Arundel County Bar

Joyce H. Knox, Esq.  
Baltimore City Bar

James J. Lombardi, Esq.  
Prince George's County Bar

Hon. John F. McAuliffe  
Court of Appeals (retired); *Emeritus*

Anne C. Ogletree, Esq.  
Caroline County Bar

Hon. Kenneth C. Proctor  
Circuit Court for Baltimore County (retired); *Emeritus*

Hon. Mary Ellen T. Rinehardt  
District Court, Baltimore City

Linda M. Schuett, Esq.  
Anne Arundel County Bar

Larry W. Shipley  
Clerk, Circuit Court for Carroll County

Hon. Norman R. Stone, Jr.  
State Senator, Baltimore County

Melvin J. Sykes, Esq.  
Baltimore City Bar

Roger W. Titus, Esq.  
Montgomery County Bar

Hon. Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.  
State Delegate, Prince George's County

Hon. James N. Vaughan  
District Court, Howard County

Robert A. Zarnoch, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General

Sandra F. Haines, Esq., Reporter  
Sherie B. Libber, Esq., Assistant Reporter

nor," to clarify provisions concerning the imposition of sanctions applicable in both criminal and civil contempt proceedings.

At an open meeting on December 9, 1996, the Court of Appeals made modifications to certain of the proposed amendments. By Order dated December 10, 1996, the Court of Appeals adopted amendments to Rules 15-201, 15-203, 15-204, 15-206, 15-207, and 15-208, as modified, effective January 1, 1997. That Order was published in the Maryland Register, Vol. 24, Issue 2 (January 17, 1997).

The One Hundred Thirty-Fourth Report, published in the Maryland Register, Vol. 23, Issue 24 (November 22, 1996), contained proposed new Rule 4-255 and proposed amendments to Rules 1-202, 1-203, 2-601, 8-602, 4-331, 4-343, 8-306, 4-347, 6-125, 6-401, and 8-415.

The principal aspects of the rules changes contained in the One Hundred Thirty-Fourth Report were:

(1) "Housekeeping" amendments to Rule 1-202 take into account the adoption of new Titles 9 through 16 of the Maryland Rules.

(2) Amendments to Rule 1-203 automatically extend all time requirements under the Rules applicable to a deceased party for the lesser of 60 days after death of the party or 15 days after appointment of a personal representative.

(3) Amendments to Rule 2-601, modeled after Fed.R.Civ.P. 58, require that each judgment in a circuit court be set forth on a separate document.

(4) Proposed new Rule 4-255 and amendments to Rules 4-331, 4-343, and 8-306 are designed to implement recommendations made by the Governor's Commission on the Death Penalty.

At an open meeting on April 7, 1997, the Court of Appeals made modifications to certain of the pro-

posed rules changes. By Order dated April 8, 1997, the Court rejected proposed new Rule 4-255 and adopted the other rules changes proposed in the One Hundred Thirty-Fourth Report, as modified, with effective dates of October 1, 1997 for the amendments to Rules 2-601 and 8-602 and July 1, 1997 for the other rules changes. That Order was published in the Maryland Register, Vol. 24, Issue 9 (April 25, 1997).

The One Hundred Thirty-Fifth Report, dated November 25, 1996, recommended for adoption on an emergency basis amendments to Rules 1227A and 16-804. The amendments conform the rules to amendments to the Maryland Constitution that change the composition of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities.

By Order dated December 10, 1997, the Court of Appeals adopted, on an emergency basis, an amendment to Rule 1227A, effective December 10, 1996 through December 31, 1996, and an amendment to Rule 16-804, effective January 1, 1997. That Order was published in the Maryland Register, Vol. 24, Issue 2 (January 17, 1997).

The One Hundred Thirty-Sixth Report, published in the Maryland Register, Vol. 24, Issue 6 (March 14, 1997), contained proposed new Rule 2-504.3 and proposed amendments to Rules 2-432, 2-504, 2-504.1, 4-263, 4-322, 11-501, 16-607, and 16-610 and Form No. 2 of the Form Interrogatories in the Appendix of Forms.

The principal aspects of the proposed rules changes contained in the One Hundred Thirty-Fifth Report were:

(1) Proposed new Rule 2-504.3 and proposed amendments to Rules 2-504, 2-504.1, 4-263, and 4-322 set out a vocabulary pertaining to computer-generated evidence and material and prescribe certain pre-trial procedures and procedures concerning the preservation of

computer-generated evidence and material for appellate review. The proposed rules changes were developed with the assistance of a grant from the State Justice Institute.

(2) An amendment to Rule 11-501 requires judgments of adoption entered by the juvenile court to be recorded and indexed in the adoption records of the circuit court, so that all judgments of adoption granted in a single county or Baltimore City can be found in a single location in that jurisdiction.

(3) "Housekeeping" amendments to Rules 2-432, 2-504, 2-504.1, 16-607, and 16-610 correct internal references in those rules and a "housekeeping" amendment to Form Interrogatories, Form No. 2 — General Definitions corrects an apparent omission in that form.

By Order dated June 10, 1997, effective July 1, 1997, the Court of Appeals adopted the amendment to Rule 11-501 and the "housekeeping" amendments to Rules 2-432, 2-504, 2-504.1, 16-607, and 16-610 and Form Interrogatories, Form No. 2 — General Definitions and committed to the Rules Committee for further study proposed new Rule 2-504.3 and the other proposed rules changes pertaining to computer-generated evidence and material. That Order was published in the Maryland Register, Vol. 24, Issue 14 (July 3, 1997).

The One Hundred Thirty-Seventh Report, dated May 30, 1997, contained proposed new Rule 4-245.1 and amendments to Rules

2-423, 3-648, 9-105, and 1-204, recommended for adoption on an emergency basis. The principal aspects of the proposed rules changes contained in the One Hundred Thirty-Seventh Report were:

(1) Proposed new Rule 4-245.1 provides procedures relating to a court's determination of whether an individual is a "sexually violent

predator" under Code, Article 27, §792.

(2) Amendments to Rule 2-423 expand the scope of the rule from allowing a court to order a party to submit to a mental or physical examination by a "physician," to allowing the court to order that the examination be performed by a "suitably licensed or certified examiner."

(3) An amendment to Rule 3-648 brings that rule into conformity with Rule 2-648 (a) by adding a sentence that allows the District Court to enter a money judgment when a person has failed to comply with a judgment mandating the payment of money.

(4) Proposed amendments to Rule 9-105 (h) modify the warnings set forth in the show cause order that is issued in an adoption proceeding.

(5) A proposed amendment to Rule 1-204 prohibits a court from shortening or extending the time for filing a notice of objection under Rule 9-105.

The proposed rules changes contained in the One Hundred Thirty-Seventh Report were pending before the Court of Appeals at the end of the fiscal year.

In addition to developing proposed new rules and amendments to existing rules, the Rules Committee and its staff maintain rules history archives; provide research assistance to judges, lawyers, and other who have rules history questions; and participate in educational programs involving the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure.

### **Maryland State Law Library**

The objective of the Maryland State Law Library is to provide support for all the legal and general research activities of the Court of Appeals, Court of Special Appeals, and other court-related units within the Judiciary. A full range of informa-

tion services also is extended to every branch of State government and to citizens throughout Maryland.

The mission of the Maryland State Law Library, as a support unit of the state court system, is to provide access for the law related information needs of the Judiciary as well as the legal community, government agencies and the public. The library pursues a full range of traditional and technologically enhanced service strategies that provide timely, accurate and efficient access to the sources of law, including federal, state and local government resources.

Originally established by an act of the Legislature in 1827, the library, currently staffed by 10 full-time equivalents and two part-time librarians, is governed by a Library Committee whose powers include appointment of the director of the library, as well as general rule-making authority.

With a collection of more than 325,000 volumes, and almost unlimited access to electronic information, this facility offers researchers access to three distinct and comprehensive libraries of law, general reference/government information and Maryland history and genealogy. Of special note are the library's holdings of state and federal government publications which add tremendous latitude to the scope of research materials found in most law libraries.

The State Law Library Committee was reconstituted during the year with Chief Judge Robert M. Bell becoming the new Chairperson. Other members are Hon. John C. Eldridge, Hon. Robert L. Karwacki, Hon. Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., George B. Riggan, Jr., Alexander Cummings and Patricia A. Logan. The Committee approved an expansion of the library's hours of operation to 8:00 a.m. each morning instead of 8:30 a.m. The library also now provides users with an in state toll-free phone number (1-888-216-8156).

Fiscal Year 1997 collection development efforts were directed at enhancing legal electronic services, as well as filling voids in the law and local history holdings. Among new CD ROM products acquired were A.L.I.'s Restatement of the Law, all regional Shepard's Citation services, an index to the complete file of the Niles Register and a number of Federal depository CD's including the Internal Revenue Manual. Noteworthy print publications added include Miller's Standard Insurance Policies Annotated, American Correctional Association Standards and a subscription to Education for the Handicapped Law Report. The library's "window to the world" was opened a little further with the addition of a second Internet access account with a local Internet service provider. A tremendous amount of federal, state and local government information is now accessible, through library reference staff, via the Web.

Other programs continued this year include the microfilming of Court of Special Appeals unreported opinions 1988-date, the library's participation in the Library Assistance to State Institutions photocopying service, and filming the briefs and record extracts of all reported appellate court opinions. The library also has undertaken preservation microfilming of Maryland State Bar Association Ethics Opinions and the Annual Proceedings of the Maryland Judicial Conference.

On-line cataloging and reclassification of the entire collection continued to be a high priority effort with 4,011 titles processed on OCLC during Fiscal Year 1997.

The library finalized automation planning efforts initiated in 1995 with the signing of an agreement with a commercial library automation applications vendor, Innovative Interfaces, Inc. of Emeryville, CA. Implementation of an integrated library system for cataloging, a web-based online public access catalog,

serials and acquisitions began in July 1997. By Spring, 1998, these library automation packages are anticipated to be operational. A University of Maryland graduate library school student also initiated the design of a functional model for the law library's own homepage.

New/revised library publications include a number of pathfinders: Right to Die and Medical Decisionmaking, Landlord-Tenant in Maryland, Change of Name, Legal Employment Resources, Jury Verdict Awards and Guardianship of Adults in Maryland. The library also issued a major listing/index of study commission reports held in the collection. This 57-page report entitled, Maryland Study Commission and Task Force Reports at the Maryland State Law Library - a Checklist, will be updated periodically.

Members of the staff continue to be active on the lecture circuit, addressing high school and college classes, as well as professional organizations on the basics of legal research techniques, legislative and judicial topics and current methods of electronic research. Twenty-five guided tours were conducted by reference staff during the year for students, librarians, and foreign dignitaries. The library Director participated in four MICPEL continuing education programs dealing with legal research on the Internet and modern legal research techniques.

Located on the first floor of the Courts of Appeal Building, the Library is open to the public Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Summary of Library Use Fiscal 1997

Reference Inquiries	26,733
Volumes circulated to patrons: Direct and I.L.L.	3,908
In-Person Visitors	28,500

### Attorney Grievance Commission

The Attorney Grievance Commission was created July 1, 1975, by rule of the Court of Appeals. It has, as its mission the following: "The Commission shall supervise and administer the discipline and inactive status of attorneys in accordance with this Chapter." (16-702, Maryland Rules).

The Commission, through its staff, investigates possible misconduct of Maryland attorneys called to its attention by complaint or through other sources. The Commission also investigates complaints made against lawyers, not admitted in Maryland, who engage in alleged misconduct while engaged in the practice of law in Maryland. It also investigates complaints involving individuals or groups who may be engaged in the unauthorized practice of law in Maryland.

The Commission is comprised of eight attorneys and two non-lawyers who reside or practice in different areas of the State. The Commissioners are appointed by the Court of Appeals to a term of four years and no member is eligible for reappointment following the completion of a full four year term. A Commissioner serving an unexpired term is eligible to be appointed to a full four year term upon serving a partial term due to a vacancy on the Commission.

The Court of Appeals designates one Commissioner as Chairperson. Currently, David D. Downes, Esq. of Baltimore County serves in that position. Commissioners serve without compensation.

The Commission, subject to approval by the Court of Appeals, appoints an attorney to serve as Bar Counsel. Bar Counsel's powers and duties are set forth in Maryland Rule 16-704b. Bar Counsel serves at the pleasure of the Commission and is responsible for the employment of

the staff of his office. The Commission, at its monthly meetings, reviews the activities of Bar Counsel and staff attorneys and investigators. The Commission also reviews the other components of the disciplinary system and recommends any rule changes which may be necessary.

An additional function of the Commission, under Chapter 600 of the Maryland Rules, is to receive notice of an overdraft in an attorney's trust account. An attorney's trust account must be maintained in a bank approved by the Commission which will provide overdraft notices when one occurs. One hundred (100) notifications were received during Fiscal Year 1997 (July 1, 1996-June 30, 1997), an increase of twenty-three over the previous fiscal year. Twelve overdraft notifications were referred for further investigation as a disciplinary matter; eighty-three provided a satisfactory explanation for the overdraft; and five were pending final resolution at the end of the fiscal year.

Commission staff is called upon to become Conservators of the files of attorneys who are disbarred, suspended, who disappear or pass away and no other responsible person is available to act to preserve client files. One Conservatorship, still ongoing, in only nine months of the fiscal year had required twenty-four days of attorney's time and sixty-five days of a paralegal's time. Another Conservatorship required, by the end of the fiscal year, thirty-six partial days of the time of an assistant bar counsel and seventy-two partial days of secretarial time. Bar Counsel has now compiled a list of senior attorneys willing to help the Commission with Conservatorships.

Bar Counsel is empowered to issue subpoenas pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-704c upon prior written approval of the Chair or Acting Chair of the Commission. These subpoenas are necessary for files or bank

records of those attorneys who refuse to cooperate in Commission investigations.

Rule 16-702d provides for a disciplinary fund for the Commission to perform its task. It is a condition precedent to practice law in Maryland to pay an annual assessment set by Order of the Court of Appeals. The assessment is billed at the same time as the assessment for the Clients' Security Trust Fund (CSTF). The assessment for the disciplinary fund is currently \$65.00 a year. The CSTF transfers to the Commission the assessment collected for the disciplinary fund. Late fees are assessed for those attorneys who fail to pay the yearly assessment timely. The time limits and the late fees are explained in the bills sent to every attorney.

The budget for the Commission is approved by the Court of Appeals prior to the beginning of each fiscal

year. The budget is public and is published as a part of the Commission's annual report.

Commission staff is comprised of Bar Counsel, a Deputy Bar Counsel and seven Assistant Bar Counsel. There are seven investigators, an office manager, two paralegals, nine secretaries and a receptionist.

The Commission's financial records, in addition to monthly review at Commission meetings, are audited and a report is filed with the Court of Appeals. A surety bond is maintained for Bar Counsel, the office manager and a Commissioner. Two signatures are required for each Commission check.

A grievance which is not dismissed is referred to an Inquiry Panel for a hearing. A panel consists of attorneys and lay members selected from a list of those attorneys and non-lawyers in each county, as well

as Baltimore City. The entire group of volunteers is known as the Inquiry Committee. Attorney members are selected by county bar associations, while lay members are selected by the Commission. Rule 16-705c authorizes the Commission to determine the number of members in the State necessary to conduct disciplinary hearings based on the volume of complaints. Members of the Inquiry Committee are appointed for terms of three years and are eligible for reappointment.

A Review Board, consisting of fifteen attorneys and three non-lawyers, is provided for by Maryland Rule 16-705d. The number of attorney members eligible to serve from each appellate circuit is provided for by that rule. The lay members are selected by the Commission from the State at large. The Board of Governors of the Maryland State Bar Association selects the attorney members

### 5 Year Summary of Disciplinary Action

	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
Inquiries Received (No Misconduct)	1,542	1,475	1,594	1,532	1,523
Complaints Received (Prima Facie Misconduct Indicated)	493	736	630	579	612
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,035</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>2,135</b>
Complaints Concluded	471	569	607	580	664
Disciplinary Action by No. of Attorneys:					
Disbarred	4	4	5	4	3
Disbarred by Consent	16	12	10	8	21
Suspension (and BV 16 Suspensions)	16	19	18	24	37
Public Reprimand	2	3	0	2	6
Private Reprimands (by Review Board and Bar Counsel)	10	13	17	25	35
Dismissed by Court	0	2	3	2	0
Inactive Status (includes Inactive by Consent)	5	6	2	3	9
Petitions for Reinstatement (Granted)	3	2	6	4	3
Petitions for Reinstatement (Denied)	2	0	1	2	2
Resignations	0	1	0	0	0
Monitoring	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total No. of Attorneys Disciplined</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>117</b>



of the Review Board. Judges are not permitted to serve on the Board nor on the Inquiry Committee. An appointment to the Board is for a term of three years. No member is eligible for reappointment for a term immediately following the expiration of a member's service for a full term of three years. The Board reviews matters referred to it under Chapter 600 by an Inquiry Panel. It is the Board (excepting certain criminal convictions) which directs Bar Counsel to file public charges against an attorney in the Court of Appeals.

The Commission received a total of 2,135 grievances in Fiscal Year 1997. This represented a modest increase of twenty-four from Fiscal Year 1996. From the total grievances, 1,523 were determined not to require further investigation. Six Hundred and Twelve (612) were formally "docketed" for further investigation, representing an increase from the last fiscal year when 579 were "docketed." Pending complaints, representing those docketed matters which had not been resolved at the close of the fiscal year, totaled 678, a decrease from the total pending complaints (i.e., 730) at the close of last fiscal year.

Twenty-four lawyers were disbarred during the fiscal year compared to twelve last year. Thirty-four lawyers were suspended compared to twenty-two during the previous fiscal year; three lawyers were suspended under Rule 16-716 compared with two last year. There were six public reprimands compared with three last year. Private reprimands increased to thirty-five from last year's total of twenty-five. Nine attorneys were placed on inactive status compared with three last year. Three lawyers were reinstated and two attorneys who petitioned for reinstatement had those petitions denied by the Court of Appeals without

referring those petitions to the Commission for investigation.

The Commission's annual report is distributed to each volunteer in the disciplinary system, to courts, libraries, news media, and other disciplinary agencies. That report, in addition to the material in this short report, expands on the many activities of Bar Counsel and staff and includes additional statistical information.

The Commission provides financial support to the Lawyer Counseling program of the Maryland State Bar Association. That program provides assistance to attorneys who suffer from substance abuse problems, as well as other problems affecting an attorney's ability to render competent legal services. Many attorneys with these problems have disciplinary complaints pending with the Commission.

The Commission maintains a toll-free intrastate number (1-800-492-1660) as a convenience to complainants and our volunteers.

### **Clients' Security Trust Fund**

The Clients' Security Trust Fund was established by an act of the Maryland Legislature in 1965 (Code, Article 10, Section 43). The statute empowers the Court of Appeals to provide by rule for the operation of the Fund and to require from each lawyer an annual assessment as a condition precedent to the practice of law in the State of Maryland. Rules of the Court of Appeals that are now in effect are set forth in Maryland Rule 1228.

The purpose of the Clients' Security Trust Fund is to maintain the integrity and protect the name of the legal profession. It reimburses clients for losses to the extent authorized by these rules and deemed proper and reasonable by the trustees. This in-

cludes losses caused by misappropriation of funds by members of the Maryland Bar acting either as attorneys or as fiduciaries (except to the extent to which they are bonded).

Nine trustees are appointed by the Court of Appeals from the Maryland Bar. One trustee is appointed from each of the first five Appellate Judicial Circuits and the Seventh Appellate Judicial Circuit. There are two trustees appointed from the Sixth Appellate Judicial Circuit. One additional lay trustee is appointed by the Court of Appeals from the State at large. Trustees serve on a staggered seven-year basis.

The Fund began its thirty-first year on July 1, 1996, with a balance of \$2,552,198. That figure compares with a Fund balance of \$2,140,859 on July 1, 1995. The Fund ended its thirty-first year on June 30, 1997, with a balance of \$2,851,894.

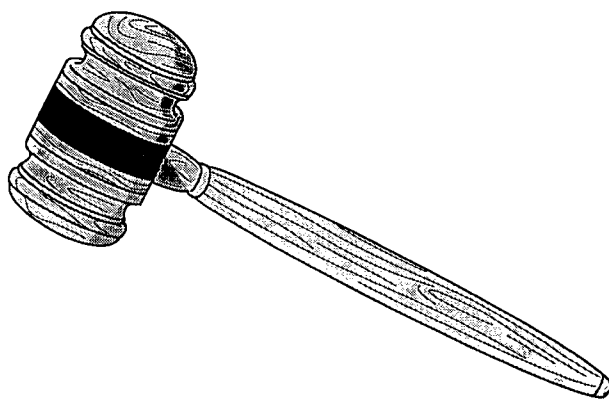
The Trustees met on four occasions during Fiscal Year 1997. At their June 20, 1996 meeting, the following members were elected to serve as officers through the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997: Victor H. Laws, Esq., Chairman; Barbara Ann Spicer, Esq., Vice Chair; Vincent L. Gingerich, Esq., Secretary; and Isaac Hecht, Esq., Treasurer.

During Fiscal Year 1997, the Trustees decided 128 claims and paid thirty-three (33) claims totalling \$351,986.43. At the close of the fiscal year, there were 121 pending claims with a possible liability in excess of \$7,186,838. Included in the claims were fourteen (14) for which an amount was not stated. These claims are in the process of investigation.

The Fund derived the sum of \$556,103 from assessments and had interest income of \$162,886 during Fiscal Year 1997. On June 30, 1997, there were 26,275 lawyers subject to annual assessments.



# *Judicial Conferences*





# Judicial Conferences

## **The Maryland Judicial Conference**

The Maryland Judicial Conference was organized in 1945 by the Honorable Ogle Marbury, then Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. It currently exists under provisions of Maryland Rule 16-802, which directs it "to consider the status of judicial business in the various courts, to devise means for relieving congestion of dockets where it may be necessary, to consider improvements of practice and procedure in the courts, to consider and recommend legislation, and to exchange ideas with respect to the improvement of the administration of justice in Maryland and the judicial system in Maryland."

The Conference consists of all judges of the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, the circuit courts for the counties and Baltimore City, and the District Court of Maryland. The Conference meets annually in a plenary session with the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals as Chair. The State Court Administrator serves as Executive Secretary.

Between annual sessions, Conference work is conducted by an Executive Committee and by a number of standing committees covering various subjects relevant to overall Judiciary operations. At present, the standing committees consist of the Civil Law Committee, the Criminal Law Committee, the Juvenile Law Committee, the Family and Domestic Relations Law Committee, the Child Support Enforcement Committee, the Mental Health, Alcoholism, and Addiction Committee, and the Public Awareness Committee. These committees are established by

the Executive Committee in consultation with the Chief Judge. The Administrative Office of the Courts provides staff support to each Conference committee. In addition to the standing committees, the Executive Committee may appoint selected ad hoc committees as needed to address individual issues.

### **The Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee consists of 17 judges elected by their peers from all court levels in the State. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges, and the Chief Judge of the District Court serve as ex-officio nonvoting members. The Committee elects its own chair and vice-chair. Its major duties are to perform the functions of the Conference between plenary sessions and to submit recommendations for improving the administration of justice in Maryland to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Court of Appeals, and to the full Conference as appropriate. The Executive Committee also may submit recommendations to the Governor, to the General Assembly, or to both. These recommendations are transmitted through the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and are forwarded to the Governor or General Assembly, or both, with any comments or additional recommendations deemed appropriate by the Chief Judge. During each annual legislative session, the Executive Committee appoints a Legislative Subcommittee to review relevant legislation. This Subcommittee coordinates with each Conference standing committee and helps the Executive Committee formulate

a Judiciary position on important legislative matters.

The Executive Committee elected the Honorable Gerard F. Devlin, Associate Judge of the District Court for Prince George's County, as its chair, and the Honorable Richard T. Rombro, Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, as its vice-chair. The chair and vice-chair hold their office for a one-year term.

During each year, the Executive Committee generally meets monthly except during the summer. Over the course of the past year, the Committee reviewed the work of the various committees and also considered certain issues on its own volition. Selected matters were subsequently referred to the General Assembly for action.

### **1997 Meeting of the Maryland Judicial Conference**

The Forty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Maryland Judicial Conference was held on April 10 and 11, 1997, at the Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel, Towson, Maryland. All judges from the State participated in the Conference.

A business meeting opened the Conference, including a welcome by the new Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and administrative head of the Judicial Branch, Robert M. Bell. Reports from various Committees were presented next, including the Judicial Compensation Committee, Committee on Public Awareness, Resolutions Committee, and ending with a review of significant legislation from the past session. Following the reports, the Conference devoted its attention to the Report of the Com-

mission on the Future of Maryland Courts. After receiving a presentation highlighting the Commission recommendations, Conference members discussed its various proposals.

The remaining day and one-half were devoted to the main topic of the Conference, "The Future is Now." The overall goal was to acquaint judges with emerging technologies which are being used with increasing frequency in court proceedings, coupled with a consideration of what policy or procedural implications such technology usage may raise. The plenary sessions began with a mock "Trial of the Future." This vignette demonstrated several new courtroom technologies designed to illustrate what judges may experience as technology advances find their way into the litigation process. The presentation was spiced by the participation of several Conference members acting the parts of litigants. Following this was a presentation describing "Courtroom 21," which is the high technology Courtroom of the Future maintained at William and Mary Law School. In reviewing "Courtroom 21," Conference members encountered additional examples of available courtroom technology, further demonstrating how technology may shape future courtroom proceedings. The remaining afternoon sessions included "Motion in Limine/Evidence, Discovery, Trial Practice Rules," "Maryland Court Technology/Internet," "Demonstrative Aids," and ending the Conference with a demonstration of "Real-Time Court Reporting."

### **Americans With Disabilities Act**

The Maryland State Judiciary continues its efforts to ensure that all people have access to a fair and effective judicial system, without re-

gard to disability. Every State court facility has an ADA Coordinator who is responsible for overseeing implementation of directives with regard to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and trying to resolve all complaints. See Appendix A.

The Department of General Services and local jurisdictions also continue to act on providing accessibility as required by the ADA, attempting to ensure, for example, that all ADA guidelines are met before occupancy of relocated court facilities and that modifications are made to comply with ADA design standards before lease renewal. The Department of General Services also has modified existing State owned facilities by providing accessible public restrooms, strobe fire alarms, ramps, elevators, additional handicapped parking spaces, and automatic entrance doors. Further structural changes made to existing courthouses by local jurisdictions include painted curbs, widened doorways, new hardware on the doors, entrance buzzers, and accessible telephones and water fountains. Ramps within the courthouse and lower counters have provided access to court services. Improvements continue to be made in order to make more courtrooms fully accessible. Ramps are being built to provide accessibility to raised jury boxes and witness stands. Ramps or lifts will be added to make more courtrooms available. Changes will be made to make jury rooms and judges' chambers accessible. More elevators will be converted for individuals with disabilities and Braille/picto lettered signage will be provided. The construction of new courthouses and the renovation of existing facilities will be in keeping with the ADA Accessibility Guidelines. The past improvements and the future ones will allow accessibility to court facilities.

Individuals with disabilities have been able to communicate and navigate more effectively within the courthouse by the use of auxiliary aids and services. Equipment such as a lighted magnifying glass, a large monitor, a wheelchair, infra-red systems and other assistive listening devices has been bought. TTY training has been provided for court employees, and training will be offered again in the future. The District Court has again published its TDD numbers in the Metropolitan Telecommunication Directory for the Deaf, Inc. Court reporters will continue to receive training for real-time reporting. Numerous requests for a variety of accommodations have been received and implemented by ADA Coordinators. Reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures which include the use of a personal assistant and physically moving court have been made.

There has been a substantial increase in the number of requests for interpreters by people who are deaf or hard of hearing. An Administrative Order dated December 7, 1995, implemented recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Interpreters, endorsed by the Judicial Conference's Executive Committee, in order to ensure that sign and spoken language interpreters used by the courts are qualified. The Order imposes such requirements as submission of a standard form providing basic information about education and credentials and attendance at an orientation workshop specifically focused on court interpretation. In conjunction with the University of Maryland, Office of Continuing Education, Special and Summer Programs and Catonsville Community College, eleven orientation workshops had been presented as of June 1997, with additional workshops anticipated. Recent workshops have included demonstrations of the

assistive listening equipment available for use in courts.

To ensure that judges understand the complexity of court interpretation and the need for selection of qualified interpreters, the Administrative Office of the Courts arranged for a well respected, certified court interpreter to present programs on selection and usage of interpreters at the Circuit Court Judges Conference, the District Court Judges Conference, and a 7th Circuit Bench meeting. Additionally, a presentation on court interpretation was made at a 5th Circuit Bench meeting.

The Advisory Committee on Interpreters, acting through subcommittees, has drafted a code of conduct for court interpreters and will soon consider draft policies on selection, usage and compensation of court interpreters. It is anticipated that the Advisory Committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference in the Fall of 1997.

The Maryland State Judiciary will continue in its efforts to provide access to justice for all. For example, all new judges receive materials on the ADA as part of their orientation program, and training programs for court personnel include ADA components.

### *Conference of Circuit Judges*

Pursuant to Rule 16-108, the Conference of Circuit Judges considers matters relating to the circuit courts. It is composed of sixteen members including the eight Circuit Administrative Judges with one judge elected from each of the eight circuits for a two-year term. The Chairperson of the Conference is elected by the membership and serves a two-year term. The following represents some of the significant matters considered by the Conference in its four meetings conducted in Fiscal Year 1997.

### *Role of the Conference*

Defining the future role of the Conference took on a singular importance that has resulted in proposed amendments to Maryland Rule 16-108. With the full endorsement of Chief Judge Bell, the Conference will become a policy advisory body to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals in all circuit court matters. It will work collaboratively with the Chief Judge in developing and implementing policies affecting the administration of the circuit courts including but not limited to: the uniformity of practice in the circuit courts as it relates to litigants and attorneys; the level of operational and judicial revenues in the Judiciary Budget; legislation affecting the circuit courts; compensation and benefits of circuit court judges; and programs and practices that will enhance the administration of justice.

### *Electronic Home Monitoring*

The Conference raised concerns about the lack of regulatory control over electronic home monitoring services. As a result, the Conference will participate actively with the Lieutenant Governor and the Secretary of Public Safety in drafting legislation to regulate this industry.

### *Records Retention*

The Conference unanimously adopted a motion to amend the retention schedule of all records relating to adoptions and Termination of Parental Rights cases initiated in the Juvenile Court. The motion was necessitated by changes in the law regarding the Juvenile Court retaining jurisdiction over all adoptions of children in need of assistance. According to the Records Retention Schedule, juvenile records are retained for 12 years, while adoption records are permanent. The adoption of the aforementioned motion will bring about parity in adoption record retention in both the adult and juvenile courts.

### *Issuance of Search Warrants*

The Conference unanimously recommended an amendment to Article 27, § 551 to provide statewide jurisdictional authority with regard to the issuance of search warrants. This legislation will be introduced in the 1998 Session of the General Assembly.

### *Judicial Education*

The fourth annual Circuit Judges' Conference was held on February 21 and 22, 1997 in Columbia. The educational portion of the Conference included the following topics: Civility in the Courtroom, The Sentencing Commission, Double Jeopardy and Forfeiture, and Interpreters in the Courtroom.

### *Law Clerk Orientation Program*

The Conference unanimously supported the development of an annual orientation program for Circuit Court Law Clerks. The first program was held on September 30, 1997 and was developed by a subcommittee of the Conference composed of Judges Theodore R. Eschenburg, Dana M. Levitz, and Dennis M. Sweeney.

### *Administrative Judges Committee of the District Court*

The Administrative Judges Committee of the District Court, unlike its counterpart, the Conference of Circuit Judges, was not established by rule of the Court of Appeals, but arose almost inherently from the constitutional and statutory provisions which created the District Court in 1971.

Under Article IV of the Maryland Constitution and the implementing legislation in the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, the District Court is a single, statewide entity. The Chief Judge is responsible for the maintenance, administration, and operation of the District Court at all of its locations throughout the

State, with constitutional accountability to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The administrative judges in each of the District Court's twelve districts are in turn responsible to the Court's Chief Judge for the administration, operation, and maintenance of the District Court in their respective districts.

To enable these thirteen constitutional administrators to speak with one voice, the Chief Judge formed the Administrative Judges Committee when the Court began in 1971. In 1978, when Maryland Rule 1207 was amended to provide for election of some of the members of the Conference of Circuit Judges, he provided for the biannual election of five trial judges of the District Court to serve on the Committee with the District Court's twelve administrative judges. The Chief Judge, ex-officio,

serves as Chairman of this Committee.

At its quarterly meetings during Fiscal Year 1997, the Committee acted on numerous items. Among the more significant were:

(1) Established an ad hoc committee for the purpose of studying the merits and demerits of the preliminary inquiry process;

(2) Established a procedure for judges to donate one day of leave to a leave bank for court employees;

(3) Worked toward establishing a uniform procedure for handling judicial leave requests;

(4) Revised numerous forms affecting the operation of the Court;

(5) Reviewed and made recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Maryland Judicial Conference and to the General As-

sembly concerning various bills affecting the operation and administration of the District Court;

(6) The Committee also addressed the following and made recommendations where appropriate:

a. Commission to Study the Future of Maryland's Courts

b. Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy

c. Lt. Governor and Attorney General's Family Violence Council

d. Private pretrial release companies

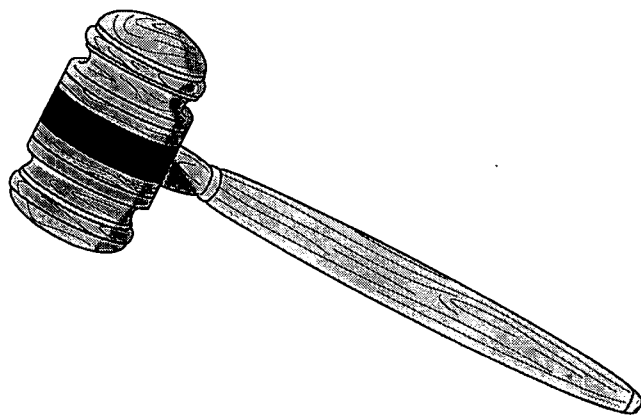
e. Parole and Probation drug testing

f. Payment to attend MADD's Victim Impact Panels

g. Judicial Compensation



*Appointment,  
Discipline,  
And Removal  
Of Judges*



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# *Appointment, Discipline, and Removal of Judges*

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Under the Maryland Constitution, when a vacancy in a judicial office occurs, or when a new judgeship is created, the Governor normally is entitled to appoint an individual to fill the office.

The Constitution also provides certain basic qualifications for judicial office. These include: Maryland citizenship; residency in Maryland for at least five years and in the appropriate circuit, district or county, for at least six months; registration as a qualified voter; admission to practice law in Maryland; and the minimum age of 30. In addition, a judicial appointee must be selected from those lawyers "who are most distinguished for integrity, wisdom, and sound legal knowledge."

Although the Constitution sets forth these basic qualifications, it provides the Governor with no guidance as to how to exercise this discretion in making judicial appointments. Maryland governors have themselves filled that gap, however, by establishing Judicial Nominating Commissions.

## **Judicial Nominating Commissions**

Before 1971, Maryland governors exercised their powers to appoint judges subject only to such advice as a particular governor might wish to obtain from bar associations, legislators, lawyers, influential politicians, or others. Because of dissatisfaction with this process, as well as concern with other aspects of judicial selection and retention procedures in Maryland, the Maryland State Bar

Association for many years pressed for the adoption of some form of what is generally known as "merit selection" procedures.

In 1970, these efforts bore fruit when former Governor Marvin Mandel, by Executive Order, established a statewide Judicial Nominating Commission to propose nominees for appointment to the appellate courts, and eight regional Trial Court Nominating Commissions to perform the same function with respect to trial court vacancies. These nine commissions began operations in 1971. In 1988, however, the Judicial Nominating Commissions were restructured to allow each county with a population of 100,000 or more to have its own Trial Courts Nominating Commission. That restructuring resulted in fourteen trial court commissions, known as Commission Districts, as well as an Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission. Since that time, a fifteenth Commission District was added in Charles County as a result of increased population in that jurisdiction. Each judicial vacancy filled pursuant to the Governor's appointing power is filled from a list of nominees submitted by a Nominating Commission.

As presently structured, under an Executive Order issued by Governor Parris N. Glendening, effective May 16, 1995, a sixteenth Trial Courts Nominating Commission was added. That Commission District is comprised of Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties. The sixteen trial courts commissions consist of six lawyer members, four of whom are elected by other lawyers within designated geographical areas and two

appointed by the Governor; six lay members appointed by the Governor; and a chairperson, who may be either a lawyer or a lay person, appointed by the Governor. As a result of the Governor's Executive Order and the restructuring of the appellate circuits, the Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission is now comprised of eight lawyer members and eight lay members, representing the seven appellate circuits and two at-large positions, and a chairperson. Seven of the lawyer members of the appellate commission are also elected, while the Governor appoints the lay members, one at-large lawyer member, and the chairperson. The Administrative Office of the Courts acts as a secretariat to all commissions and provides them with staff and logistical support.

When a judicial vacancy occurs or is about to occur, the Administrative Office of the Courts notifies the appropriate commission and places an announcement in *The Daily Record*. Notice of the vacancy is also sent to the Maryland State Bar Association and the local bar association. After the filing deadline, the names of the applicants are published in a local newspaper seeking comments from the public prior to the commission meeting.

The Commission then meets and considers the applications and other relevant information, such as recommendations from bar associations or individual citizens. Each candidate is interviewed either by the full Commission or by the Commission panels. After discussion of the candidates, the Commission prepares a list of those it deems to be "legally and

*Judicial Nominating Commission Statistics*  
*Judicial Vacancies and Nominees*  
*Fiscal Year 1989—Fiscal Year 1997*

		Court of Appeals	Court of Special Appeals	Circuit Courts	District Court	TOTAL
FY 1989	Vacancies	0	0	13	14	27 <sup>a</sup>
	Applicants	0	0	101	172	273
	Nominees	0	0	36	48	84
FY 1990	Vacancies	1	1	12	9	23 <sup>b</sup>
	Applicants	6	16	83	99	204
	Nominees	0	5	43	28	76
FY 1991	Vacancies	2	3	10	16	31 <sup>c</sup>
	Applicants	18	33	53	197	301
	Nominees	7	12	21	59	99
FY 1992	Vacancies	0	0	10	5	15 <sup>d</sup>
	Applicants	0	0	48	49	97
	Nominees	0	0	27	15	42
FY 1993	Vacancies	0	1	5	5	11 <sup>e</sup>
	Applicants	0	19	48	77	144
	Nominees	0	6	9	23	38
FY 1994	Vacancies	1	1	15	9	26 <sup>f</sup>
	Applicants	6	10	53	164	333
	Nominees	3	4	33	44	84
FY 1995	Vacancies	0	1	12	9	22 <sup>g</sup>
	Applicants	0	6	107	125	238
	Nominees	0	5	35	36	76
FY 1996	Vacancies	0	1	19	7	27 <sup>h</sup>
	Applicants	0	12	95	70	177
	Nominees	0	4	34	24	62
FY 1997	Vacancies	1	4	10	11	26 <sup>i</sup>
	Applicants	6	38	49	111	204
	Nominees	5	20	22	38	85

NOTE: Because of the pooling arrangements available under the Executive Order since Fiscal Year 1981, the number of applicants and nominees may be somewhat understated. The numbers given in the chart do not include individuals whose names were available for consideration by the Governor pursuant to the pooling arrangement.

a One vacancy that occurred in FY 89 was not filled until FY90.

b Four vacancies that occurred in FY 90 were not filled until FY 91. A meeting for one District Court vacancy was not held until FY 91.

c Four vacancies that occurred in FY 91 were not filled until FY 92. Meetings for three vacancies that occurred in FY 91 were held in FY 92.

d At the close of FY 92, a meeting had not been held for one District Court and four circuit court vacancies. Several vacancies were still awaiting appointments.

e At the close of the fiscal year, a meeting had not been held for one circuit court and one District Court vacancy. Several vacancies were still awaiting appointments.

f There were two vacancies still awaiting appointments at the close of FY 94. Additionally, the meeting for one FY 94 vacancy was held at the beginning of FY 95.

g At the close of the fiscal year, meetings had not been held for eleven vacancies. Additionally, two vacancies were readvertised with meetings scheduled to be held during FY 96. Two vacancies for which meetings were held during the fiscal year were awaiting appointments.

h There was one vacancy still awaiting an appointment at the close of the year.

i There were two vacancies from the circuit court and three from the District Court for which appointments had not been made at the close of the fiscal year.

## *Judicial Nominating Commissions* *as of August 4, 1997*

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Margaret G. Richlin, Esq.  
 Barry Silber, Esq.  
 Fred H. Silverstein, Esq.  
 Vacant

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Leslie A. Powell, Esq.

Janice B. Rockwell, Esq.

Mary V. Schneider

Linda Pappas Funsch  
 Karen Jean Krask, Esq.  
 Donald C. Linton  
 Julia A. Minner, Esq.

Terry N. Shook  
 Donald Staggers, Sr.  
 John P. Wilbur  
 Lucien T. Winegar, Esq.

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Aris Mardrossian

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 Charles E. Castle, Jr.  
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 Thomas L. Heeney, Esq.

Kim M. Sohn  
 Rebecca N. Strandberg, Esq.  
 DeVance Walker, Jr.  
 Charles E. Wilson, Jr., Esq.

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Vaughan D. Evans, St.

Y.D. Hance

Julian John Izydore, Esq.

Renee J. Lafayette, Esq.

Thomas G. Axley, Esq.  
 Janice Briscoe Baldwin, Esq.  
 James M. Banagan  
 Gwendoline D. Bankins

Sue Ann Lewis, Esq.  
 John K. Parlett, Jr.  
 John Donovan Roach  
 Gregory Wells, Esq.

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Nuria Alvarez Grant

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 Robert Charles Bonsib, Esq.  
 Edward P. Camus, Esq.

Arthur J. Horne, Jr., Esq.  
 William J. Jefferson, Jr.  
 Walter E. Laake, Jr., Esq.  
 Kay Meinhardt

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Veronica Henderson

Harry S. Johnson, Esq.

Kara C. King-Bess

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 Paul D. Bekman, Esq.  
 Andrew M. Brooks  
 Elizabeth Chen

Sheila K. Sachs, Esq.  
 Susan Souder, Esq.  
 Lynn K. Stewart, Esq.  
 Garland O. Williamson

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Francis C. Garner

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Salome F. Howard

Amy J. Bragunier, Esq.  
 Rudolf A. Carrico, Jr., Esq.  
 David Harris Chapman, Esq.  
 Sue Ann Greer, Esq.

John M. Sine  
 Merle K. Turner, Esq.  
 Carmella Davis Watkins  
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Hilliard E. Gardner, D.V.M.

Gladys H. Giddens

Karen M. Kaludis, Esq.

Lewis C. Andrew  
 John G. Billmyre, Esq.  
 Robert S. Collison, Esq.  
 Betty W. Crothers, Esq.

Connie G. Marvel, Esq.  
 Anne W. Ryan  
 Kathleen O'Mara Tieder  
 Evelyn W. Townsend

professionally most fully qualified" for judicial office. This list, which is forwarded to the Governor, is prepared by secret written ballot. No Commission may vote unless at least 10 of its 13 members are present. An applicant may be included on the list if he or she obtains a majority of votes of the Commission members present at a voting session. Under the Executive Order, a pooling system is used. Under this system, persons nominated for appointment to a particular court level are automatically submitted again to the Governor, along with any additional nominees, for new vacancies on that particular court that occur within 12 months of the date of initial nomination. The Governor is bound by the Executive Order to make an appointment from either the Commission list or the list of nominees that are in the pool.

During Fiscal Year 1997, there were twenty-six judicial vacancies for which applicants had to be considered by the various judicial nominating commissions. That figure represents a decrease of just one vacancy from the previous fiscal year. There were vacancies on each of the four courts, including one on the Court of Appeals, four on the Court of Special Appeals, 10 on the circuit courts, and 11 vacancies on the District Court. The most prevalent reasons for vacancies were retirement and elevation of judges to higher court levels. In addition, there were two newly created judgeships on both the circuit court and the District Court. Comparative statistics with respect to vacancies, including the number of applicants and nominees, are reflected on the accompanying table. It should be noted that the table does not reflect the pooling arrangements outlined above. The table provides statistics for only new applicants and nominees.

Appointments had been made to twenty-one of the vacancies that occurred during Fiscal Year 1996 at the time of this writing. Of the five re-

maining vacancies, three were awaiting meetings, while one vacancy each on the circuit court and District Court were awaiting appointments by the Governor. The vacancy on the Court of Appeals was filled by a judge from the Court of Special Appeals. The four appointments to the Court of Special Appeals included one circuit court judge, one attorney from the public sector and two private attorneys. The eight circuit court vacancies filled thus far included four judges from the District Court bench, one attorney from the public sector and three private attorneys. Of the eight attorneys appointed to the District Court, six were from the private sector, while two were from the public sector.

### **Removal and Discipline of Judges**

Judges of the appellate courts run periodically in noncompetitive elections. This process is often referred to as "running on their record." A judge who does not receive a majority of the votes cast in such an election is removed from office. Judges from the circuit courts of the counties and Baltimore City must run periodically in regular contested elections. If a judge is challenged in such an election and the challenger wins, the judge is removed from office. District Court judges do not participate in elections, but face Senate reconfirmation every ten years. A District Court judge who is not reconfirmed by the Senate is removed from office. In addition, there are from six to seven other methods that may be employed to remove a judge from office:

1. The Governor may remove a judge "on conviction in a court of law for incompetency, willful neglect of duty, misbehavior in office, or any other crime...."

2. The Governor may remove a judge on the "address of the General Assembly" if two-thirds of each House concur in the address, and if

the accused has been notified of the charges against him and has had an opportunity to make his defense.

3. The General Assembly may remove a judge by two-thirds vote of each House, and with the Governor's concurrence, by reason of "physical or mental infirmity...."

4. The General Assembly may remove a judge through the process of impeachment.

5. The Court of Appeals may remove a judge upon recommendation of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities.

6. Upon conviction of receiving a bribe in order to influence a judge in the performance of official duties, the judge is "forever ... disqualified for holding any office of trust or profit in this State" and thus presumably removed from office.

7. Article XV, § 2 of the Constitution, adopted in 1974, may provide another method to remove elected judges. It provides for automatic suspension of an "elected official of the State" who is convicted or enters a nolo plea for a crime which is a felony or which is a misdemeanor related to his public duties and involves moral turpitude. If the conviction becomes final, the officer is automatically removed from office.

Despite the availability of other methods, only the fifth procedure has actually been used within recent memory. The use of this method involves an analysis and recommendation by the Commission on Judicial Disabilities. Since this Commission also has the power to recommend discipline less severe than removal, it is useful to examine that body.

### **The Commission On Judicial Disabilities**

The Maryland Commission on Judicial Disabilities was established by constitutional amendment in 1966 in response to a growing need for an independent body which would monitor judges. A 1970 con-

stitutional amendment strengthened the Commission. Its powers were further clarified in a 1974 constitutional amendment. A major revision by the Court of Appeals to former Maryland Rule 1227 occurred in 1995. A constitutional amendment that, among other things, added four additional lay members to the Commission, was approved by Maryland voters in November, 1996. By an Order dated June 5, 1996, effective January 1, 1997, the Court of Appeals renumbered the rules applicable to the Commission to Maryland Rules 16-801 through 16-810.

Although the 1996 Constitutional Amendment raised Commission membership from seven to eleven, the Commission now consists of twelve members including four judges, one from the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland, two from the circuit court, and one from the District Court; three members of the bar with seven years experience; and five lay persons all of whom are appointed by the Governor and hail from different areas of Maryland. The current Commission has an additional circuit court judge member which Chapter 113, Laws of 1995 apparently contemplated by specifying that as part of the transition from 7 to 11 members that the incumbent judicial members could continue their terms until January 1, 1999, unless their terms expire sooner or they resign.

The Commission on Judicial Disabilities serves the public and the Judiciary in a variety of ways. Its primary function is to receive, investigate, and act on complaints against members of Maryland's Judiciary. Pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-810, the Commission also supplies the district judicial nominating commissions with confidential information concerning reprimands or pending charges against those judges seeking nomination or appointment to other judicial offices.

The Commission members and staff have continuously participated in judicial training programs and informational seminars for legal professionals.

Numerous individuals write or call expressing dissatisfaction with a judge or with the outcome of a case or some judicial ruling. While some of these complaints may not come technically within the Commission's jurisdiction, the complainants are afforded an opportunity to express their feelings and frequently are informed, for the first time, of their right to appeal. Thus, the Commission, in an informal fashion offers an ancillary, though vital, service to members of the public.

#### ***Procedure for acting on complaints***

Complaints filed with the Commission must be in writing and under affidavit, but no particular form is required. Complaints are docketed as either formal complaints or miscellaneous complaints. Formal complaints are those that meet the requirements of Maryland Rules 16-803(d). Each formal complaint receives a docket number and is investigated by the Commission's Investigative Counsel in accordance with Maryland Rule 16-805(b). Miscellaneous complaints received by the Commission are docketed in chronological order and given docket numbers with an additional designation to indicate that either the complaint is lacking an affidavit and/or some other requirement of the rules has not been met. Persons who file complaints which are designated miscellaneous complaints are informed of the requirements and procedures necessary for their complaint to be handled as a formal complaint under Maryland Rule 16-803(d). In addition, they are provided with the required language to be used in an affidavit. If an individual initially files a miscellaneous complaint but later corrects the deficiency, the complaint is converted to

a formal complaint and retains the original docket number without the special designation.

Having received a complaint against a member of the Judiciary, the Commission's Investigative Counsel must determine whether the complaint is "frivolous on its face" or whether the complaint has merit. If the Investigative Counsel concludes that a complaint is frivolous, the Counsel has the authority to dismiss the complaint and notify the complainant, the Commission, and, upon request, the judge of such a dismissal. If the complaint has merit, the Investigative Counsel conducts a preliminary investigation to determine whether reasonable grounds exist to believe the allegations of the complaint. Investigative Counsel has 60 days from receipt of the complaint in which to complete the preliminary investigation. This time period may be extended by the Commission for good cause.

Upon completion of the preliminary investigation, the Investigative Counsel must determine whether to recommend to the Commission that formal proceedings be initiated, after which a hearing usually must be held regarding the judge's alleged misconduct or disability. As a result of the hearing, the Commission may, by a majority vote of the full Commission, dismiss the complaint, or by clear and convincing evidence, issue a public reprimand, or recommend that a judge should be retired, removed, or censured. In the latter three instances, it recommends that course of action to the Court of Appeals of Maryland. The Court of Appeals may adopt the Commission's recommendation, dismiss the case or order a different (either more or less severe) discipline of the judge than the Commission recommended.

The Commission also has several available disciplinary options that do not require a public hearing before imposition. Pursuant to Mary-



land Rule 16-807, the Commission may issue a private reprimand to a judge or enter into a deferred discipline agreement with the judge. In both cases, the complainant is notified of that disposition, but not of the details of the discipline imposed. Additionally, that Commission can dismiss a complaint, but accompany the dismissal with a warning against future sanctionable conduct. A dismissal with a warning, however, is not considered under the Rules to be a reprimand, nor does it constitute discipline.

#### ***Matters pending at the end of Fiscal Year 1997***

Before complaints are formally initiated or where press coverage of some judicial actions prompt, many individuals telephone the Commission to register complaints. In Fiscal Year 1997, the commission received more than 1,000 such telephone calls. Callers are offered an opportunity to explain their grievances and are also informed about how to file a formal complaint. Callers are routinely sent a follow up letter detailing

the language and procedures necessary to file a formal complaint.

During Fiscal Year 1997, the Commission considered 133 written complaints (i.e., 94 formal complaints and 39 miscellaneous complaints). The number of complaints in Fiscal Year 1997 represented an increase over the total complaints in the prior fiscal year. Of the 133 complaints, five were initiated by practicing attorneys, 13 by inmates, five on the initiative of the Investigative Counsel, one by a member of the Maryland Legislature, and the remaining 109 by members of the general public. Some complaints were directed simultaneously against more than one judge and sometimes a single jurist was the subject of multiple complaints. Complaints against circuit court judges total 87; 39 complaints were made against District Court judges, and two complaints were received against Orphans' Court judges. Five (5) complaints were made about masters, U.S. judges, and others over whom the Commission has no jurisdiction.

This fiscal year, litigation over family law matters (i.e., divorce, alimony, custody, visitation) prompted 26 complaints, criminal cases, including traffic violations, prompted 54 complaints, and the remainder resulted from other civil litigation or the alleged prejudice or improper demeanor of a judge.

During Fiscal Year 1997, retirements while investigations were ongoing may have resulted in the underlying complaints being dismissed. In addition, the Commission issued one public reprimand and entered into a deferred discipline agreement with a judge. Several cases remained open at the end of the fiscal year, pending further investigation or receipt of additional information.

The vast majority of all complaints were dismissed because the allegations set forth in the complaints were either found to be unsubstantiated, or the conduct complained about did not constitute sanctionable conduct.

#### **Commission Members**

Hon. Glenn T. Harrell, Jr., Chair  
*Associate Judge, Court of Special Appeals*

Hon. DeLawrence Beard  
*Chief Judge, Circuit Court for Montgomery County*

Hon. Marjorie Clagett  
*Associate Judge, Circuit Court for Calvert County*

Hon. Teaette S. Price  
*Associate Judge, District Court for Baltimore City*

William M. Ferris, Esq.

Wilbur D. Preston, Esq.

Aileen E. Oliver, Esq.

Sandra T. Gray

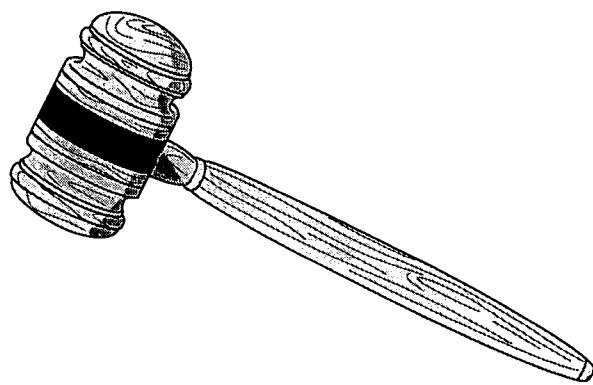
William J. Boarman

Dixie J. Miller

Randolph G. Outen



*1997 Legislation  
Affecting  
The Courts*





## 1997 Legislation Affecting The Courts

This summary outlines some of the measures enacted during the 1997 Regular Session of the General Assembly. Unless noted, the effective date generally will be October 1, 1997.

### Judges

#### New Judgeships

Six new judgeships were authorized at staggered times and with deferred funding. Chapter 337 adds, on July 1, 1997, one judge each to the Circuit Courts for Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties and the District Court in Baltimore and Prince George's Counties, with funding under Chapter 3 as of January 1, 1998. A judgeship for the Circuit Court for Baltimore County is created and funded as of January 1, 1998. The Circuit Court for Montgomery County gains a judgeship on July 1, 1997, funded as of March 1, 1998.

#### Elections

Judges elected at large and other Statewide candidates must file reports electronically as of November, 1997, under Chapter 562. All other candidates must do so as of November, 1999, at which time the State Administrative Board of Election Laws is to make computer software available.

### Court Administration

As part of Chapters 635 and 636, reorganizing the legislative service agencies, the interval between audits of State units, including clerks of court, is extended, from 2 to 3 years. Performance audits, including

a review of the effectiveness with which resources are used, will be allowed.

Under Chapter 463, every State government unit must have a Statewide, toll free telephone system and include the number on stationery and documents, but, as "unit" is not defined, the ultimate impact on the Judiciary is unclear.

### Jurisdiction and/or Limitations

In a substantive revision of the laws relating to explosives, Chapter 343 will upgrade, to felony, bomb scare offenses. Chapters 372 and 373 will upgrade, to felony but with concurrent jurisdiction in the circuit courts and the District Court, manslaughter by vehicle and homicide by motor vehicle or vessel while intoxicated, intoxicated per se or under the influence. Additionally, Chapter 131 will bifurcate food stamp fraud as a felony or misdemeanor based on the value of the money or goods (\$1,000), thereby altering jurisdiction and limitation as to the felony offenses. Other measures altering limitations include Chapter 247, as to violations of Titles 4 and 10 of the Natural Resources Article, Chapter 565, as to ethics and election practices, and Chapter 652, as to letters of credit.

Chapter 441 will divest a circuit court of jurisdiction over a violation of Article 27, § 287 except in cases where another offense within the court's jurisdiction is charged, a jury trial is prayed or an appeal from the District Court judgment is noted.

The juvenile court in Montgomery County exclusive original jurisdiction over termination of parental rights proceedings and related adoption proceedings involving C.I.N.A. Chapter 496 extends to Montgomery County the transfer effected in other jurisdictions by Chapters 595 and 596, Acts of 1996.

Chapter 641 will keep in the Workers' Compensation Commission jurisdiction as to all other matters pending an appeal solely as to a penalty.

### Civil Law and Procedure

#### Evidence

Current law facilitates admission of dental, hospital and medical writings in District Court. Chapter 443 will extend the law to a circuit court proceeding within the jurisdiction of, but transferred from, the District Court. Similarly, Chapter 442 will allow of the authenticity of a bill and the fairness and reasonableness of charges on testimony as to a paid bill.

Under Chapter 609, a test facility's statement of costs and records of maternity and neonatal costs will be admitted in a paternity proceeding without a custodian, and such statement will be prima facie evidence of costs. Furthermore, certain evidence of support orders will not be excluded because of mode of transmission from another state.

#### Commercial Law

Chapter 613 will conform the Maryland Securities Act to the National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996 and make the

Philanthropy Protection Act of 1995 applicable to administrative and judicial proceedings beginning on or after October 2, 1997. Provisions as to non-payment of fees will be effective October 10, 1999.

Chapter 652 will conform the Maryland Uniform Commercial Code to current customs and practices as to letters of credit issued on or after October 1, 1997, including altering the choice of law provision, clarifying the independence of an obligation from the underlying transaction and subrogation rights, providing for assignment, limiting disclaimers and waivers, requiring timely notice of discrepancies and allowing counsel fees and expenses.

The Uniform Partnership Act is revised substantively, by Chapter 654, as to actions and proceedings commenced, rights accrued, and liability of a partner for an act or omission on or after July 1, 1998.

Chapter 659 reflects changes in federal tax laws and otherwise will update limited liability company laws by simplifying organization of 1-member companies and conversion, favoring continuity, allowing oral amendment of operating agreements, making the fraudulent conveyance statute applicable to companies but not to certain compensation of members and repealing a requirement for unanimous consent for confessed judgments and arbitration.

### **Real Property**

Certain community associations will be able to petition the Circuit Court for Baltimore or Prince George's County for equitable relief to abate nuisances and to enforce local codes, under Chapters 482 and 454, respectively. Chapter 665, however, will limit private nuisance actions as to shooting ranges established on or before May 31, 1997.

Chapter 522 will repeal a prescription against liquidated damages clauses and a 2-months' cap on ten-

ant liability in Baltimore City. Chapter 692 will allow an administrative judge to stay execution of a warrant of restitution for weather only as to residential property. Chapter 714 will allow escrow for failure to meet risk reduction standards for lead, rather than failure to remove all paint.

### **Tort Claims Coverage**

As to causes of action arising on or after October 1, 1997, the Baltimore City Police Department will be under the Local Government Tort Claims Act (Chapter 364), while orphans' court judges and employees of a circuit or orphans' court under the Maryland Tort Claims Act (Chapter 535). Chapter 535 fills a gap created by Chapter 413, Acts of 1989, as to certain locally funded positions.

### **Wrongful Death Actions**

As to wrongful death actions arising on or after October 1, 1997, Chapter 318 will reverse *Waddell v. Kirkpatrick*, 331 Md. 52 (1993), allowing the action within 3 years or a lesser period of limitations after the disability of minority or incompetence is removed. Additionally, Chapter 318 will allow actions by relatives substantially, rather than wholly, dependent on the deceased, set a period to qualify for non-pecuniary losses based on support of an adult child, allow recovery of non-pecuniary losses by a parent of a married adult child and an adult child of a parent, include as a parent a man whose parentage is established under Estates and Trusts Article § 1-208, and set a new method for allocation of damages among claimants.

### **Civil Offenses**

Civil infractions, punishable by a preset penalty enforceable in the District Court, are created for violations of traffic signals proved by electronic image (Chapter 315). In consultation with local governments, the Chief Judge of the District Court

must adopt procedures for issuance of citations, trial and collection of penalties. Chapter 674 will impose a civil penalty, enforceable in the District Court, for excessive noise from vehicles.

As of July 1, 1997, Chapters 551 and 552 enabled Baltimore City to set civil penalties to enforce ordinances, rules, or regulations and allowed special enforcement officers to issue civil citations for specific violations of City law.

Chapter 562 will impose a civil penalty, enforceable in a circuit court by the State Prosecutor, for campaign activities during a regular session of the General Assembly by, or for, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the Comptroller or a legislator. Chapter 565 will create a civil infraction within the exclusive jurisdiction of the District Court for offenses under the Fair Election Practices Act, committed without knowledge of the illegality.

## **Criminal and Juvenile (Delinquency) Law and Procedure**

### **Victims' Rights**

To implement Declaration of Rights Article 47, the Presiding Officers of the General Assembly established, in 1995, the Task Force to Examine Maryland's Crime Victims' Rights Laws. In 1996, the Task Force concentrated on notice of proceedings, as well as a nonsubstantive recodification of all laws concerning victims and witnesses, but turned in 1997, to substantive legislation across the entire spectrum of victims' rights through enactment of such measures as companion measures, Chapters 311 and 312, and Chapter 313. As described below, many of the changes affect juvenile, as well as criminal, proceedings. Additionally, as described above, Task Force legislation aimed at expanded wrongful death recoveries (Chapter 318).

Among the changes, Chapters 311 and 312 attempt to shield victims and witnesses with an altered standard for disclosure of their addresses and telephone numbers and extension of non-disclosure to adjudicatory hearings. Also protection of victims and witnesses from threats and retaliation is extended to alleged delinquents.

### ***Charging Documents, Summonses and Warrants***

The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure is working on implementation of Chapter 512, which requires that a warrant issued by a circuit court judge on or after January 1, 1998, have certain captions, state specified information, including instructions as to the judge or commissioner before whom the arrestee is to appear, and be on letter sized paper. Issuing judges also must keep a copy and provide copies to the clerks, law enforcement officers and arrestees.

To facilitate central processing, Chapter 48 authorized, as of June 1, 1997, designated employees at detention and correctional facilities to serve criminal summons, warrants and charging documents on inmates.

### ***Pretrial Release***

Chapter 390 will allow judges, commissioners, defense counsel and State's attorneys to access, solely for a pretrial release determination as to defendants charged as adults, records of delinquency adjudications within the immediately preceding 3 years. Chapters 305 and 306 will bar release, by a District Court commissioner, of a person previously convicted of a crime of violence committed in Maryland or elsewhere and will bar release, by a judge, on a finding that neither bail nor conditions can reasonably ensure against flight or danger to another or the community. Chapters 305 and 306 also clarify that a judge may impose both bail and conditions in releasing

such defendant. Chapters 311 and 312 also impose more stringent criteria for, and allow more conditions on, pretrial release.

### ***Intake Conference***

Chapter 370 will require a child and the child's parent or guardian to appear at an intake conference after consenting to the informal adjustment process.

### ***Notice of Charges***

Under Chapter 557, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) must notify the cosigner on a minor's license application filed on or after October 1, 1997, if the minor is charged in District Court with driving 20 mph or more above the speed limit. The Chief Judge of the District Court and MVA must set procedures for notifying MVA of these charges.

### ***Proceedings***

Chapters 311 and 312 state the right of a victim to attend, if practicable, all proceedings at which a defendant has the right to appear and expand the right to address a judge or jury. Except on good cause, delinquency proceedings on felonies must be open and, if closed, a victim and other persons with direct interests must be admitted and announcement of the disposition must be public, under Chapter 314.

### ***Evidence***

The rape shield law will apply to attempted rape and attempted 1st or 2nd degree sexual offense and provisions on closed circuit testimony and hearsay evidence on child abuse are changed (Chapters 311 and 312).

As to offenses committed on or after July 1, 1997, Chapter 440 alters the law relating to DNA profiles, including standards for statements of test validation for purposes of admission and pretrial discovery.

In a criminal case involving forgery of a prescription, Chapter 391

will allow admission of an affidavit as evidence of forgery of a practitioner's signature, lack of patient relationship, and/or absence of a prescription.

### ***Victim Impact Statements***

Chapters 311 and 312 will require predisposition investigation reports on delinquents to include victim impact statements, allow a victim to submit a victim impact statement when a presentence or predisposition report is not ordered, and require a victim impact statement to specify no-contact requests by victims.

### ***Sentencing, including Restitution and Costs***

The Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy has until December 31, 1998, to submit its final report (Chapter 544).

For purposes of sex offender registration, described in greater detail below, a State's attorney may ask a court to determine whether an individual is a sexually violent predator (Chapter 754).

Chapter 261 will allow a court to order a police department to impound or immobilize, for up to 180 days, a solely used vehicle driven by the owner while his or her license is suspended or revoked for alcohol or drug related driving offenses.

As of July 1, 1997, Chapter 313 added \$5 to court costs to be imposed on conviction of a crime or a jailable Transportation Article offense, allocating the money between the Victims of Crime Fund and the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund. A \$5 surcharge continued from year to year in budget reconciliation acts lapses, with the Chapter 313 costs taking its place permanently. The lapsed budget language, however, also barred waiver of any costs except for indigence. This bar apparently is continued only as to the additional court costs.

As to restitution, Chapters 311 and 312 will make ability to pay discretionary in imposition, extend earnings withholding provisions to judgments against parents and require referral of unpaid restitution to the State's Central Collection Unit on termination of probation or supervision. Chapter 523 will require a court to order restitution or performance of community service or both in graffiti cases.

To address perceived problems in collection of restitution by the Division of Probation and Parole and other court assessments, Chapters 359 and 640 create, from July 1, 1997, through June 30, 2001, a pilot program for collection of costs, fines, restitution, probation and other fees assessed by the Circuit or District Court for Harford or Montgomery Counties. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is charged with contracting with private contractors, in accordance with a request for proposals developed with the advice of the Chief Judges of the Court of Appeals and District Court and the State Court Administrator. Privatization of collections had been studied by the Administrative Office of the Courts and the District Court, in conjunction with the National Center for State Courts, and this legislation was tailored to reflect those on-going efforts.

Additionally, Chapter 495 will provide for restitution to be paid from damages that may be awarded to a prisoner.

### **Registration and Reports**

The Megan's Law amendments to the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act necessitated changes in the registration law enacted in Maryland by Chapter 142, Acts of 1995. Chapter 754 will alter significantly the offenses for which registration may be required and the offenders for which a court may be the supervising authority.

A court that is the supervising authority, rather than a law enforcement agency, now must register the offender and disseminate the registration information to a local law enforcement agency, victim, witness and other persons designated by the State's attorney. Instead of a court, however, the Division of Parole and Probation is the supervising authority for offenders under its supervision as part of probation before or after judgment or a suspended sentence.

While generally applying only to offenses committed on or after October 1, 1997, Chapter 754 applies to child sex offenders subject to the requirements of Chapter 142, for offenses preceding that date. Additionally, offenses committed on or before September 30, can be used as prior offenses for establishing sexually violent offender status.

Chapter 393 will require a clerk to report to MVA adjudication of a child as delinquent for violation of Article 27 § 342A or § 349 or Transportation Article § 14-102.

### **Prisoner Litigation**

In an effort to stem frivolous inmate lawsuits, increasing in state courts in light of the federal Prisoner Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Chapter 495 will regulate civil actions filed by a pretrial detainee or other prisoner on or after October 1, 1997, other than habeas corpus or post-conviction relief. Chapter 495 will require dismissal of a complaint absent proof of exhaustion of administrative remedies and authorized judicial review and will allow dismissal as frivolous, malicious or barred by immunity or inclusion of a finding of frivolous in a final order or judgment. After three frivolous cases, an inmate will need leave of court to file suit. Cases can be placed on an inactive case list, while one case at a time proceeds. Additionally, service of a complaint, discovery and proceedings will not occur until payment of a filing fee as set by a court. Furthermore, a

court need not hold a hearing for disposition of an appeal on the record.

### **Children in Need of Assistance**

Companion measures Chapters 367 and 368 attempt to protect babies exposed prenatally to cocaine, heroin or a derivative, by requiring the filing of a C.I.N.A. petition if the mother refuses to enter or complete treatment and the parents cannot provide adequate care, creating a presumption that the baby is not receiving ordinary and proper care and mandating consideration of the baby's condition in termination of parental rights proceedings. The Departments of Human Resources and of Health and Mental Hygiene must develop intervention systems in at least four counties for treatment and family support.

Chapter 9 will enable directors of local departments of social services to delegate guardianship to staff registered with a court.

### **Family and Domestic Relations Laws**

#### **Divorce**

Chapter 323 specifies that, if a custody, visitation or support issue arises in a divorce action filed on or after October 1, 1997, a court may order parties to attend a seminar on effects of divorce on children. The Court of Appeals is required to define, by rule, the content of such seminars, exemptions and time limits for attendance, sanctions for non-attendance, and fees. Information about a party obtained during a seminar will be inadmissible.

#### **Domestic Violence**

In an attempt to curtail evasion of service of protective orders, Chapter 307 makes service in court or by first class mail notice of the contents of a protective order and repeals a requirement for service by law enforce-



ment personnel. The domestic violence forms are being altered inter alia to include in ex parte orders notice as to the consequences for non-appearance, the possible duration and extension of an order, and the duty of a respondent to keep the court apprised of changes of address. The period for which a protective order may be effective will increase, from 200 days to 12 months, and as to an order passed after October 1, 1997, can be extended up to six months. The yard, grounds, outbuildings and common areas around a residence are expressly included within the scope of a protective order.

Under Chapter 308, clerks of courts must keep separate, non-expungeable records of assertions of spousal privileges in assault trials for which expungement is ordered.

As to offenses committed on or after October 1, 1997, Chapter 317 will alter the rule of provocation by rendering intercourse inadequate to reduce murder to voluntary manslaughter.

### **Support**

Chapter 609 adopts some of the changes required under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 to preserve federal funding for child support activities. Additional requirements are reflected in Chapter 646. The Secretary of Human Resources concurred in a request of the Judiciary for a task force on implementation in light of the complexity of the legislation. Judges Bonita J. Dancy, J. William Hinkel and William P. Turner and Assistant Administrator Michael B. Neale will serve.

Among the changes effected by Chapter 609 as of July 1, 1997, are a number affecting paternity. Affidavits of parentage are strengthened by: creating a legal finding, rather than a presumption, of paternity; re-

quiring full faith and credit; limiting the time for written or judicial rescission and the bases for challenges; and, except for good cause, barring suspension of child support and other responsibilities under an affidavit during pendency of a challenge. Additionally, Chapter 609 authorizes the Attorney General, or a qualified lawyer, to consent to the filing of a paternity complaint and repeals the statutory right to a jury trial. As to proceedings in which the Child Support Enforcement Administration (CSEA) provides services under federal law, Chapter 646 authorizes CSEA to be the complainant. Under Chapter 609, on request of CSEA, a court must order blood or genetic testing of a mother, child or putative father. Subject to ability to pay, a court must order temporary support if the statistical probability of paternity is at least 99%. On a finding of paternity, immediate earnings withholding would be mandatory.

Personal jurisdiction of a Maryland court over a non-resident obligor and resident parties is defined. Under Chapter 646, CSEA may initiate proceedings to establish, modify or enforce support, and attorneys in these proceedings will represent CSEA and not the person to whom CSEA is providing support services. CSEA can override a court order for an obligor to pay support directly to an obligee and can serve employers with earnings withholding orders for arrearages.

Child support due under an order for payment to a support enforcement agency will be a lien against real and personal property, enforceable by CSEA in accordance with the Maryland Rules. A clerk of a circuit court must record and index a Maryland or foreign child support lien and enter it in the judgment docket.

Chapter 609 expands CSEA's power to obtain information on ab-

sent and deserting parents and putative fathers, including information from employers, public service companies, energy providers and financial institutions. CSEA also will be able to obtain records on obligors in arrears from licensing authorities, including clerks of court, and to ask for suspension of a license based on 120 days' arrearages or a failure to comply with a CSEA subpoena, with appeal of the suspension only as to identity.

In the event that damages are awarded to a prisoner in a civil suit, Chapter 495 will require support to be paid from the award.

### **Estates and Trusts**

Chapter 596 provides for modified administration of solvent estates devolving to a surviving spouse and/or children.

As to estates of individuals dying on or after January 1, 1998, Chapter 693 makes net, not gross, value the basis for valuation of small estates, allows certain real property to be valued at assessment, instead of fair market, value, increases exemptions for small bequests and property received after the decedent's death, allows payment of certain commissions and attorney's fees without court approval, and makes other changes.

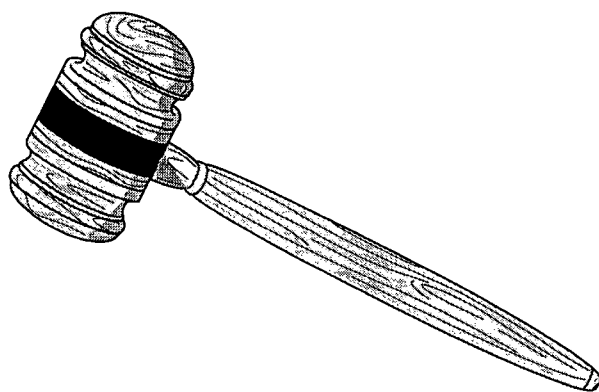
### **Clerks of Court**

Chapter 534 will make all money in a bank account under the control of a clerk of court or register of wills subject to insurance or collateral and reporting requirements for State moneys.

Chapters 581 and 582 will extend to Baltimore, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Washington and Worcester Counties a Harford County pilot for recordation of documents before alteration of assessment records.



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# Definitions

## Adoption, Guardianship

This includes all adoptions and guardianships including regular adoptions, guardianship with right to adoption, and guardianship with right to consent to long-term care short of adoption. Guardianship of incompetents are reported in "Other General".

## Adult

A person who is 18 years old or older charged with an offense relating to juveniles to be heard in Juvenile Court. (See § 3-831 of Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article.)

## Appeal

The resorting to a higher court to review, rehear, or retry a decision of a tribunal below. This includes appeals to the circuit court, the Court of Special Appeals, and the Court of Appeals.

Appeals to the circuit courts include:

1. Record—The judge's review of a written or electronic recording of the proceedings in the District Court.

2. De Novo—The retrial of an entire case initially tried in the District Court.

3. Administrative Agency—Appeals from decisions rendered by administrative agencies. For example:

- Department of Personnel
- County Commissioner

- Department of Taxation and Assessments

- Employment Security

- Funeral Director

- Liquor License Commissioners

- Physical Therapy

- State Comptroller (Sales Tax, etc.)

- State Motor Vehicle Authority

- Supervisors of Elections

- Workmen's Compensation Commission

- Zoning Appeals

- Any other administrative body from which an appeal is authorized.

## Application for Leave to Appeal

Procedural method by which a petitioner seeks leave of the Court of Special Appeals to grant an appeal. When it is granted, the matter addressed is transferred to the direct appeal docket of the Court for customary briefing and argument. Maryland statutes and Rules of Procedure permit applications in matters dealing with post conviction, inmate grievances, appeals from final judgment following guilty pleas, and denial of or grant of excessive bail in habeas corpus proceedings.

## Case

A matter having a unique docket number; includes original and reopened (post judgment) matters.

## Caseload

The total number of cases filed or pending with a court during a specific period of time. Cases may include all categories of matters (law, equity, juvenile, and criminal). Note: After July 1, 1984, law and equity were merged into a new civil category.

## C.I.N.A. (Child in Need of Assistance)

Refers to a child who needs the assistance of the court because:

1. The child is mentally handicapped or

2. Is not receiving ordinary and proper care and attention, and

3. The parents, guardian, or custodian are unable or unwilling to give proper care and attention.

## C.I.N.S. (Child in Need of Supervision)

Refers to a child who requires guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation because of habitual truancy, ungovernableness, or behavior that would endanger himself or others. Also included in this category is the commission of an offense applicable only to children.

## Condemnation

The process by which property of a private owner is taken for public use without the owner's consent but upon the award and payment of just compensation.

## **Contested Confessed Judgment**

The act of a debtor in permitting judgment to be entered by a creditor immediately upon filing of a written statement by the creditor to the court.

## **Contracts**

A case involving a dispute over oral or written agreements between two or more parties.

Breaches of verbal or written contracts.

Landlord/tenant appeals from District Court.

## **Delinquency**

Commission of an act by a juvenile which would be a crime if committed by an adult.

## **Disposition**

Entry of final judgment in a case.

## **District Court—Contested**

Only applies to civil, a case that has gone to trial and both parties (plaintiff and defendant) appear.

## **District Court Criminal Case**

Single defendant charged per single incident. It may include multiple charges arising from the same incident.

## **District Court Filing**

The initiation of an action or case in the District Court.

## **Divorce, Nullity**

A proceeding to dissolve a marriage. Original filings under this category include divorce a vinculo matrimonii, divorce a mensa et thoro, and annulment. A reopened case under this category includes hearings held after final decree or other termination in the original case. A reopened case may involve review of matters other than the divorce itself as long as the original case was a divorce. (Examples of the latter may be a contempt proceeding for nonpayment of support, non-compliance with custody agreement, modification of support, custody, etc.)

## **Docket**

Formal record of court proceedings.

## **Filing**

Formal commencement of a judicial proceeding by submitting the necessary papers pertaining to it. Original filing under one docket number and subsequent reopenings under the same number are counted as separate filings.

## **Fiscal Year**

The period of time from July 1 of one year through June 30 of the next. For example: July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1996.

## **Hearings**

- Criminal—Any activity occurring in the courtroom, or in the judge's chambers on the record and/or in the presence of a clerk, is considered a hearing, except trials or any hearing that does not involve a defendant.

Examples of Hearings in Criminal

- Arraignment
- Discovery motion
- Guilty plea
- Motion to quash
- Motion to dismiss
- Motion for change of venue
- Motion to continue
- Motion to suppress
- Motion to sever
- Nolo contendere
- Not guilty with agreed statement of facts
- Sentence modifications
- Violation of probation
- Civil—A presentation either before a judge or before a master empowered to make recommendations, on the record or in the presence of a clerk or court reporter, for purposes other than final determination of the facts of the case. Electronic recording equipment, for definition purposes, is the equivalent to the presence of a court reporter.

### **Examples of Hearings in Civil**

- Motion to compel an answer to an interrogatory
- Motion ne recipiatur
- Motion for judgment by default
- Demurrer
- Motion for summary judgment
- Motion to vacate, open, or modify confession of judgment
- Preliminary motions presented in court, including motions for continuance



— Determination of alimony pendente lite, temporary custody, etc., in a divorce case

— Contempt or modification hearings

- **Juvenile**—A presentation before a judge, master, or examiner on the record in the presence of a clerk or court reporter. Electronic recording equipment, for definition purposes, is the equivalent to the presence of a court reporter.

Examples of Hearings in Juvenile

- Preliminary motions presented in court
- Arraignment or preliminary inquiry
- Detention (if after filing of petition)
- Merits or adjudication
- Disposition
- Restitution
- Waiver
- Review
- Violation of probation

### **Indictment**

The product of a grand jury proceeding against an individual.

### **Information**

Written accusation of a crime prepared by the State's Attorney's Office.

### **Jury Trial Prayer-Motor Vehicle**

A request for trial by jury in the circuit court for a traffic charge normally heard in the District Court. To pray a jury trial in a motor vehicle case, the sentence must be for more than six months.

### **Jury Trial Prayer-Other (Criminal)**

A request for a trial by jury in the circuit court for charges normally heard in the District Court, except traffic charges or nonsupport.

### **Miscellaneous Docket**

Established and maintained primarily as a method of recording and identifying those preliminary proceedings or collateral matters before the Court of Appeals other than direct appeals.

### **Motor Torts**

Personal injury and property damage cases resulting from automobile accidents. (This does not include boats, lawn mowers, etc., nor does it include consent cases settled out of court.)

### **Motor Vehicle Appeals**

An appeal of a District Court verdict in a traffic charge.

### **Nolle Prosequi**

A formal entry upon the record by the plaintiff in a civil suit, or the State's Attorney in a criminal case, to no longer prosecute the case.

### **Nonsupport**

A criminal case involving the charge of nonsupport.

### **Original Filing**

See "Filing."

### **Other Appeals (Criminal)**

An appeal of a District Court verdict except one arising from a traffic charge or nonsupport.

### **Other Domestic Relations**

Matters related to the family other than divorce, guardianship,

adoption, or paternity. Examples of this category include support, custody, and U.R.E.S.A. cases.

### **Other Civil/Other Equity**

This category includes, among other things, injunctions, change of name, foreclosure, and guardianship of incompetent persons.

### **Other Law**

This category includes, among other things, conversion, detinue, ejectment, issues from Orphans' Court, attachments on original process, and mandamus.

### **Other Torts**

Personal injury and property damage cases resulting from:

- Assault and battery—an unlawful force to inflict bodily injury upon another.
- Certain attachments.
- Consent tort.
- False imprisonment—the plaintiff is confined within boundaries fixed by the defendant for some period of time.
- Libel and slander—a defamation of character.
- Malicious prosecution—without just cause an injury was done to somebody through the means of a legal court proceeding.
- Negligence—any conduct falling below the standards established by law for the protection of others from unreasonable risk of harm.

### **Paternity**

A suit to determine fatherhood responsibility of a child born out of wedlock.

**Pending Case**

Case in which no final disposition has occurred.

**Post Conviction**

Proceeding instituted to set aside a conviction or to correct a sentence that was unlawfully imposed.

**Reopened Filing**

The first hearing held on a case after a final judgment on the original matters has been entered.

**Stet**

Proceedings, are stayed; one of the ways a case may be terminated.

**Termination**

Same as "Disposition."

**Trials**

- Criminal

Court Trial—A contested hearing on the facts of the case to decide the guilt or innocence of the defendant where one or more witnesses has been sworn.

Jury Trial—A contested hearing on the facts of the case to decide the guilt or innocence of the defendant, where the jury has been sworn.

- Civil

Court Trial—A contested hearing on any one or all merits of the case,

presided over by a judge, to decide in favor of either party where testimony is given by one or more persons. Note: "Merits" is defined as all pleadings prayed by the plaintiff in the original petition that created the case. Divorce, custody, child support, etc., are examples that might be considered merits in a civil case.

Jury Trial—A contested hearing on the facts of the case to decide in favor of either party where the jury has been sworn.

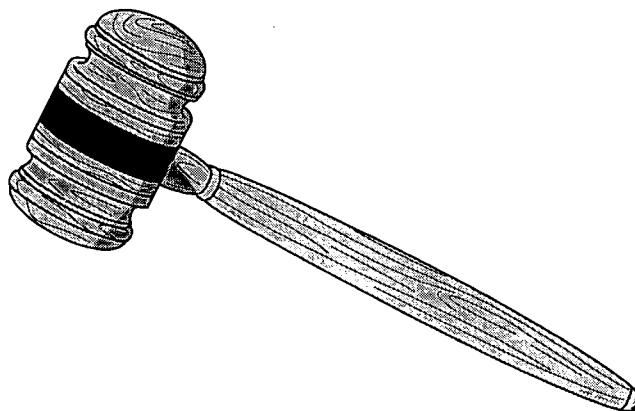
**Unreported Category**

A case that has been reported but not specifically identified as to case type by the reporting court.

# *Appendix A*

*ADA*

*Coordinators*





# ADA Coordinators

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The names addresses, and telephone numbers of the ADA Coordinators for the Maryland State Judiciary are as follows:

**Court of Appeals**

Alexander L. Cummings, Esq.  
Clerk, Court of Appeals  
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 260-1500  
TTY: (410) 974-5422

**Court of Special Appeals**

Leslie D. Gradet, Esq.  
Clerk, Court of Special Appeals  
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 260-1450  
TTY: (410) 974-5424

**Administrative Office of the Courts**

Anne-Marie Baikauskas  
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building  
361 Rowe Blvd.  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 260-1276\*

**District Court Commissioners**

David W. Weissert  
District Court Building A-2  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 260-1232\*

**District Court Headquarters**

Nancy E. Johnson  
District Court Building A-2  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 260-1202\*

**Allegany County Circuit Court**

W. Stephen Young, P.E.  
County Engineer  
County Office Building  
701 Kelly Road, Suite 242  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
(301) 777-5933  
TTY: (301) 777-5825

**Allegany County - District Court**

Kathleen M. Stafford  
Administrative Clerk  
County Office Building  
3 Pershing Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502-3045  
(301) 777-2105\*

**Anne Arundel County Circuit Court**

Robert G. Wallace, Court Administrator  
Courthouse  
Church Circle, P.O. Box 2395  
Annapolis, MD 21404  
(410) 222-1404  
TTY: (410) 222-1429

**Anne Arundel County - District Court**

Rebecca A. Hoppa  
Administrative Clerk  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401-2395  
(410) 260-1365  
TTY: (410) 260-1344

**Baltimore City Circuit Court**

Mary B. Widomski  
Room 200, Courthouse East  
111 N. Calvert Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
(410) 396-5188  
TTY: (410) 333-4389

**Baltimore City - District Court**

Lonnie P. Ferguson  
Administrative Clerk  
5800 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 764-8951  
TTY: (410) 358-5360

**Baltimore County Circuit Court**

Peter J. Lally  
Circuit Court Administrator  
County Courts Building  
401 Bosley Avenue  
Towson, MD 21204  
(410) 887-2687  
TTY: (410) 887-3018

**Baltimore County - District Court**

Michael P. Vach  
Administrative Clerk  
120 E. Chesapeake Avenue  
Towson, MD 21286-5307  
(410) 321-3361  
TTY: (410) 321-2002

**Calvert County Circuit Court**

Patricia B. Dekdebrun  
Courthouse  
175 Main Street  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
(410) 535-1600\*

**Calvert County - District Court**

Rebecca A. Quinlin  
Acting Administrative Clerk  
200 Charles Street, P.O. Box 3070  
LaPlata, MD 20646  
(301) 932-3278\*  
(Interim Coordinator)

**Caroline County Circuit Court**

Brian Ebling, Director  
Emergency Management  
P.O. Box 151  
Denton, MD 21629  
(410) 479-4200\*

**Caroline County - District Court**

Grace D. Achuff  
Administrative Clerk  
170 E. Main Street  
Elkton, MD 21921  
(410) 996-0720\*

**Carroll County Circuit Court**

Bobbie L. Erb  
Court Administrator  
Historic Courthouse  
Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157-5194  
(410) 857-8118\*

**Carroll County - District Court**

Nancy E. Mueller  
Administrative Clerk  
3451 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
(410) 461-0217\*

**Cecil County Circuit Court**

B. Elaine Mahan  
Courthouse  
129 E. Main Street  
Elkton, MD 21921  
(410) 996-5316\*

**Cecil County - District Court**

Grace D. Achuff  
Administrative Clerk  
170 E. Main Street  
Elkton, MD 21921  
(410) 996-0720\*

**Charles County Circuit Court**

Michael T. Mudd  
1001 Radio Station Road  
LaPlata, MD 20646  
(301) 932-3440\*

**Charles County - District Court**

Rebecca A. Quinlin  
Acting Administrative Clerk, 200 Charles St.  
P.O. Box 3070  
LaPlata, MD 20646  
(301) 932-3278\*  
(Interim Coordinator)

**Dorchester County Circuit Court**

Patricia S. Tolley  
P.O. Box 583  
Cambridge, MD 21613  
(410) 228-6300  
TTY: (410) 228-3569

**Dorchester County - District Court**

Mary E. Kinnamon  
Administrative Clerk  
310 Gay Street  
P.O. Box 547  
Cambridge, MD 21613-1813  
(410) 221-2585\*

**Frederick County Circuit Court**

Janet D. Rippeon  
100 W. Patrick Street  
Frederick MD 21701  
(301) 694-2563  
TTY: (301) 698-0692

**Frederick County - District Court**

Dixie L. Scholtes  
Administrative Clerk  
100 W. Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(301) 694-2006\*

**Garrett County Circuit Court**

Thomas E. Doyle, Esq.  
P.O. Box 289  
Oakland, MD 21550  
(301) 334-4808\*

**Garrett County - District Court**

Kathleen M. Stafford  
Administrative Clerk  
3 Pershing Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502-3045  
(301) 777-2105\*

**Harford County Circuit Court**

David W. Sewell  
Chief of Facilities & Operations  
29 W. Courtland Street  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
(410) 638-3212\*  
(410) 879-2000 ext. 3212\*

**Harford County - District Court**

E. Carol Sweet  
Administrative Clerk  
2 S. Bond Street  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
(410) 836-4526\*

**Howard County Circuit Court**

John F. Shatto  
Court Administrator  
Courthouse  
8360 Court Avenue  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
(410) 313-4851\*

**Howard County - District Court**

Nancy E. Mueller  
Administrative Clerk  
3451 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
(410) 461-0217  
TTY: (410) 461-0418

**Kent County Circuit Court**

Mark L. Mumford  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
103 N. Cross Street  
Chestertown, MD 21620-1511  
(410) 778-0608

**Kent County - District Court**

Grace D. Achuff  
Administrative Clerk  
170 E. Main Street  
Elkton, MD 21921  
(410) 996-0720\*

**Montgomery County Circuit Court**

Pamela Quirk Harris  
Court Administrator  
Judicial Center  
50 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(301) 217-7223\*

**Montgomery County - District Court**

Jeffrey L. Ward  
Administrative Clerk  
27 Courthouse Square  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(301) 279-1520  
TTY: (301) 279-1286

**Prince George's County Circuit Court**

Susan C. Parker  
Deputy Court Administrator  
Circuit Court for Prince George's County  
14735 Main Street  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
(301) 952-3709\*  
(Interim Coordinator)

**Prince George's County - District Court**

Violet O. Owens  
Administrative Clerk  
Courthouse, Bourne Wing, Room 173B  
14735 Main Street  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
(301) 952-4240  
TTY: (301) 952-3719

**Queen Anne's County Circuit Court**

D. Steven Walls  
Director, Department of Public Works  
P.O. Box 56  
Centreville, MD 21617  
(410) 758-0920\*

**Queen Anne's County - District Court**

Grace D. Achuff  
Administrative Clerk  
170 E. Main Street  
Elkton, MD 21921  
(410) 996-0720\*

**St. Mary's County Circuit Court**

Cynthia A. Brow  
Community Services  
P.O. Box 653  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
(301) 475-4631\*

**St. Mary's County - District Court**

Rebecca A. Quinlin  
Acting Administrative Clerk  
200 Charles Street, P.O. Box 3070  
LaPlata, MD 20646  
(301) 932-3278\*  
(Interim Coordinator)

**Somerset County Circuit Court**

Lynn F. Cain  
P.O. Box 279  
Princess Anne, MD 21853  
(410) 651-1630\*

**Somerset County - District Court**

Mary E. Kinnamon  
Administrative Clerk  
310 Gay St.  
P.O. Box 547  
Cambridge, MD 21613-1813  
(410) 221-2585\*

**Talbot County Circuit Court**

Mary Ann Shortall  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
P.O. Box 723  
Easton, MD 21601  
(410) 822-2611  
TTY: (410) 819-0909

**Talbot County - District Court**

Grace D. Achuff  
Administrative Clerk  
170 E. Main Street  
Elkton, MD 21921  
(410) 996-0720\*

**Washington County Circuit Court**

Rick L. Hemphill  
Administrative Officer  
Clerk of Court's Office  
Washington County Court House  
95 W. Washington Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
(301) 733-8660  
TTY: (301) 791-2632

**Washington County - District Court**

Dixie L. Scholtes  
Administrative Clerk  
100 W. Patrick St.  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(301) 694-2006\*

**Wicomico County Circuit Court**

Wanda B. Rayne  
Judicial Administrator  
P.O. Box 806  
Salisbury, MD 21803-0546  
(410) 548-4822\*

**Wicomico County - District Court**

Mary E. Kinnamon  
Administrative Clerk  
310 Gay Street  
P.O. Box 547  
Cambridge, MD 21613-1813  
(410) 221-2585\*

**Worcester County Circuit Court**

Merrill Lockfaw, Jr.  
Maintenance Supervisor  
P.O. Box 257  
Snow Hill, MD 21863  
(410) 632-3766\*

**Worcester County - District Court**

Mary E. Kinnamon  
Administrative Clerk  
310 Gay Street  
P.O. Box 547  
Cambridge, MD 21613-1813  
(410) 221-2585\*

\* May be reached through Maryland Relay Service  
(TT/Voice) 800-735-2258.







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